JETS COMICS

藍より青し 3

KIMIYOSHI AKI

文月晃

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白泉社

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白泉社

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藍より青し 3

(あい) (あお)

KOUFU MIZUKI

文月晃

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SALLE

藍より青し ③

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JETS COMICS

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

藍より青し

CHAPTER 20: DEEP IN THE HEART

藍より青し —これまでのあらすじ—

大学生・花菜薫は、幼い頃母親から引き離され、花菜家の跡取りとして育てられたが、その前例な環境に耐えられず、家出し、一人暮らしをしていた。そこに18年間、自分の事を想い続けてきた許婚・桜庭葵がやって来た。薫は葵の積極的な態度に好感を持ったが、花菜に戻ってほしいという葵の願いだけは受け入れる事が出来なかった。葵はその事の心の傷を受け入れ、自分も桜庭を出て一緒になる決心をする。そして2人は葵の母親から一緒に住むことを許されたのだった。

新居の洋館は桜庭家が代々使っていた別荘で、そこで葵の後見人である神楽崎雅と一緒に住むことになったが、葵と雅は本館に住み、薫は離れに住むこととなった。

3年生になり、久しぶりに大学の写真部に顔を出した薫だったが、そこには1年間休学して世界中を旅していたアメリカ人ティナ・フォスターと新入部員の水無月妙子がいた。ティナは5歳の頃から博多で育ったため、博多弁のネイティブスピーカー、妙子はハウスキーパーのバイトをしている苦労人ではあるが、全くの不器用な女の子だった。

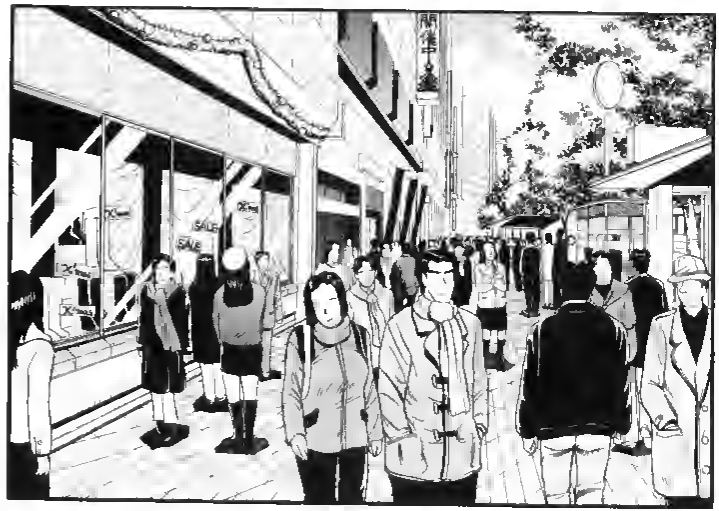
このティナと妙子も、ひょんなことから桜庭家の洋館の離れに下宿することとなったが、葵は桜庭家のスキャンダルを防ぐために、薫の許嫁ではなく、この下宿の大家として振る舞わなくてはならなくなってしまった。

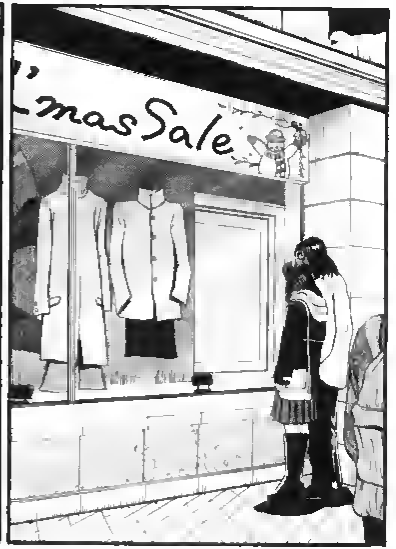
登場人物

AH! KAORU-SAMA, LOOK!
YOU CAN FEEL THE CHRIST-MAS ATMOS-PHERE

A CHRISTMAS WITH KAORU-SAMA
HEHEE

IT WILL BE CHRIST-MAS IN TWO WEEKS.


SALE
SALE

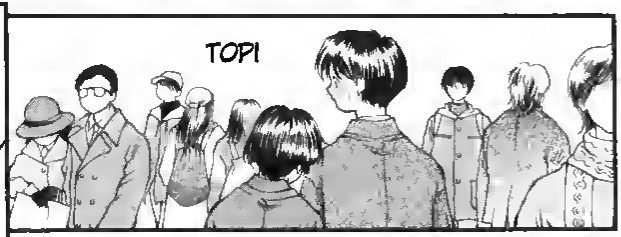

'mas Sale

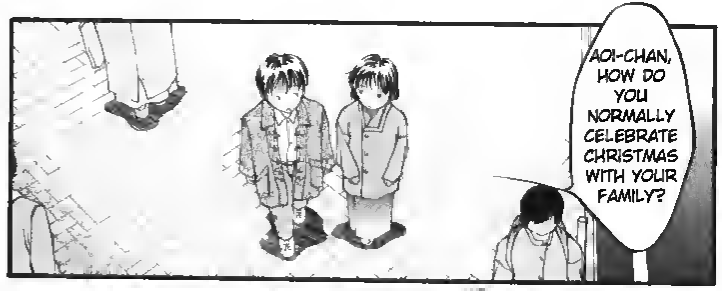
AN ENJOYABLE ONE, LIKE NONE BEFORE!
LETS HAVE A PARTY THIS YEAR FOR CHRISTMAS,

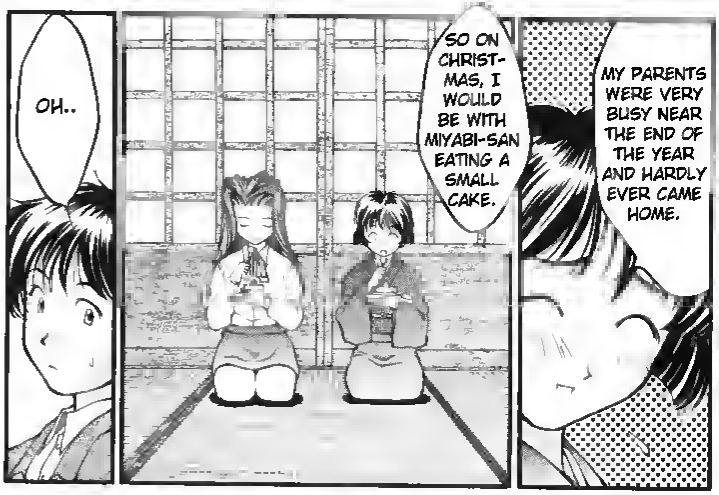
.....

UM...
BUT I WON'T MIND IF IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US.
KAA

KAO-RU-SA-MA?


TOP!

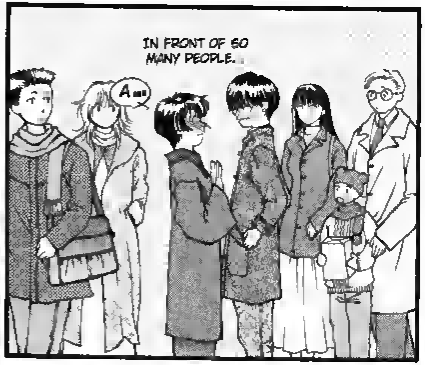

AOI-CHAN, HOW DO YOU NORMALLY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR FAMILY?


OH..
SO ON CHRIST-MAS, I WOULD BE WITH MIYABI-SAN EATING A SMALL CAKE.
MY PARENTS WERE VERY BUSY NEAR THE END OF THE YEAR AND HARDLY EVER CAME HOME.

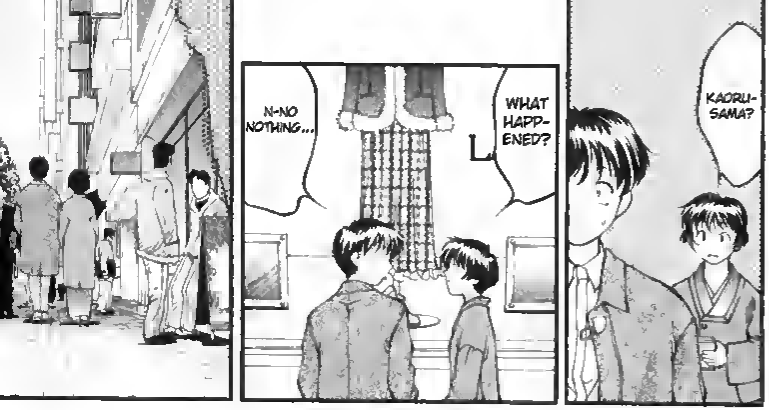
RIGHT!
THAT'S HOW MINE NORMALLY ARE.
WHAT A LONELY CHRIST-MAS.

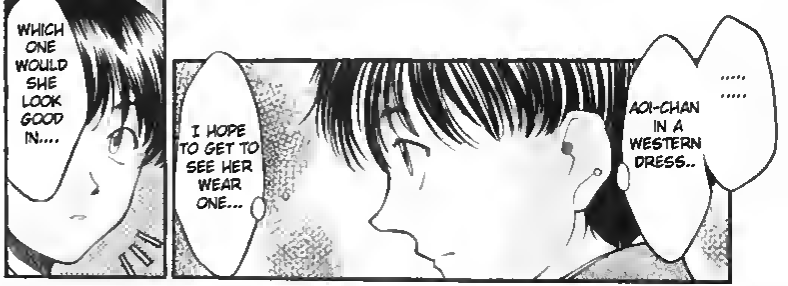
SFX: CROWD NOISES

SFX: CROWD NOISES



(SFX: EMBARRASSED)

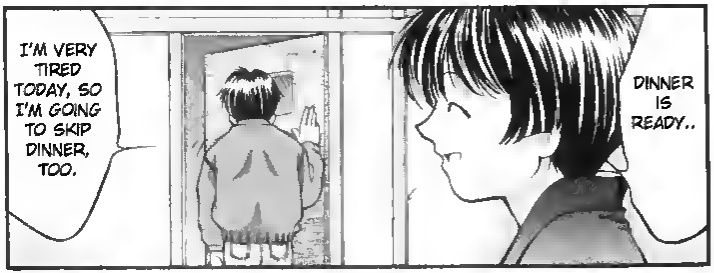

N-NO NOTHING...
WHAT HAPPENED?
KAORU-SAMA?


WHICH ONE WOULD SHE LOOK GOOD IN....
I HOPE TO GET TO SEE HER WEAR ONE...
AOI-CHAN IN A WESTERN DRESS..
.....
.....

THE MONEY THAT I SAVED FROM MY SUMMER JOB IS ALMOST GONE!
TWO WEEKS LEFT..
SOB

LAUTRE
col

I'M BACK...
WELCOME BACK KAORU-SAMA,
YOU'RE SO LATE!


I'M VERY TIRED TODAY, SO I'M GOING TO SKIP DINNER, TOO.
DINNER IS READY..

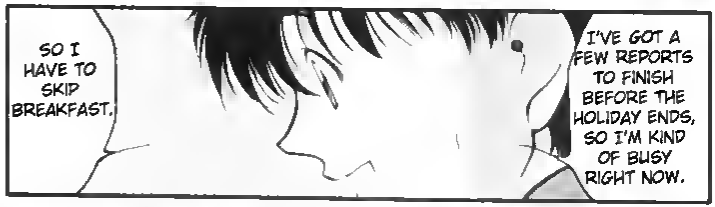
ZZZZ
ZZZZ

AH..

I'VE GOT TO GO!
I'M SORRY AOI-CHAN,

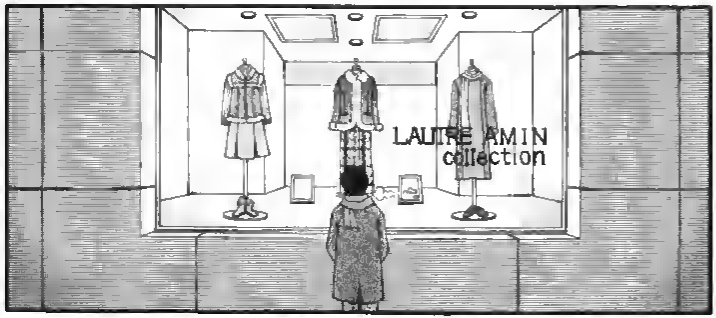
KAORU-SAMA?
SQUEEK

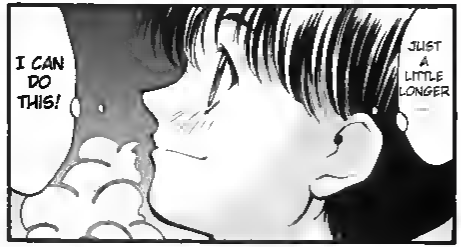
KAORU-SAMA, BREAKFAST IS READY!


SO I HAVE TO SKIP BREAKFAST.
I'VE GOT A FEW REPORTS TO FINISH BEFORE THE HOLIDAY ENDS, SO I'M KIND OF BUSY RIGHT NOW.

ALRIGHT, TAKE CARE.
I'LL BE OFF NOW...

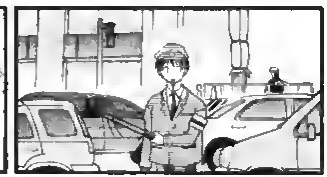
OH... I SEE.


LAURE AMIN
collection


I CAN DO THIS!
JUST A LITTLE LONGER

BREAKFAST IS READY..
KAORU-SAMA?

I'M OFF. WON'T BE EATING BREAKFAST -KAORU



KAORU-SAMA PROBABLY HATES ME..
THAT'S WHY HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME..
AM I NOT FIT TO BE KAORU-SAMA'S WIFE ANY-MORE...
KAORU-SAMA

IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE ME AND KAORU-SAMA HAD A REAL CONVER-SATION
SIGH
.....
AND KAORU-SAMA IS SO BUSY..
HE'S PROBABLY TRYING TO AVOID ME..

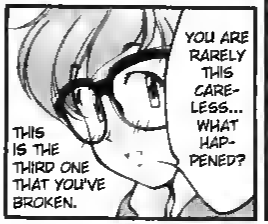
LING LING DANG!
LING LING DANG!
SOUND OF JINGLE IS SO BRIGHT
IT SOUNDS DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIGINAL
TINA-SENPAI ARE YOU REALLY AMERICAN?

NOTE: SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE SINGING JINGLE BELLS.

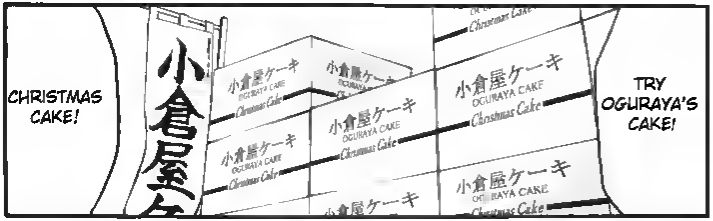
SFX: DEPRESSED NOISE

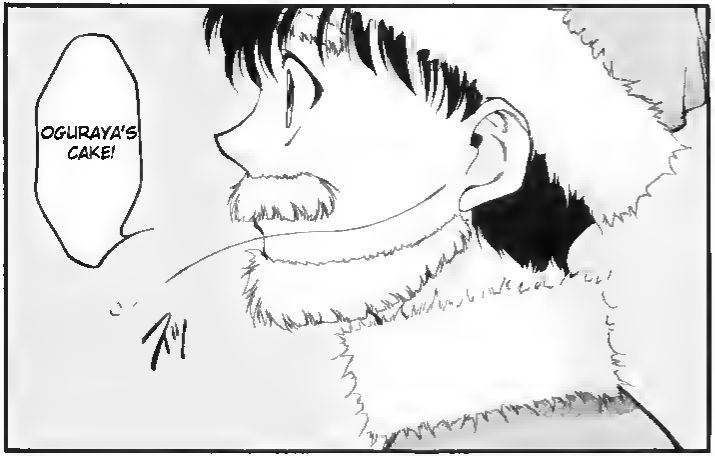
SFX: WASH WASH WASH

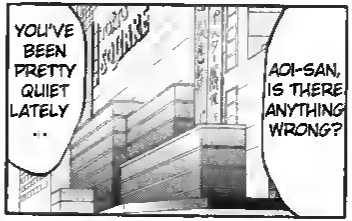
SFX: CRASH



OGURAYA CAKE
1500 YEN
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME CAKE?
WELCOME!

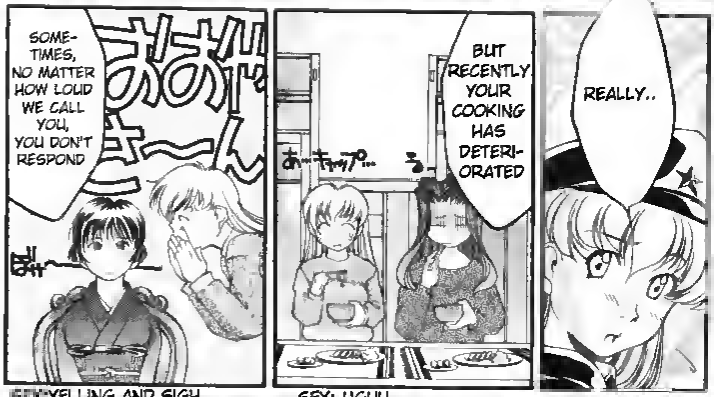

CHRISTMAS CAKE!
小倉屋ケーキ
OGURAYA CAKE
Christmas Cake
TRY OGURAYA'S CAKE!


OGURAYA'S CAKE!


YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY QUIET LATELY ..
AOI-SAN, IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG?

SORRY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

I'M THE SAME AS BEFORE..
HUH?! I'M OK!

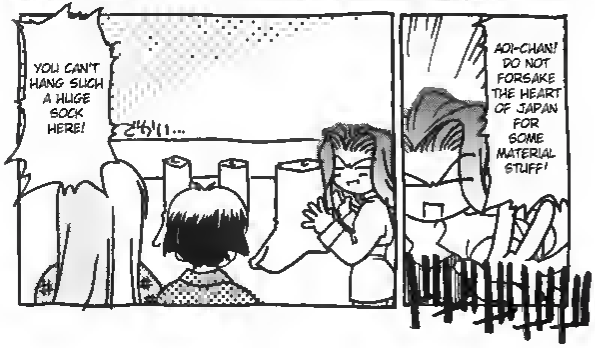

SOMETIMES, NO MATTER HOW LOUD WE CALL YOU, YOU DON'T RESPOND
BUT RECENTLY YOUR COOKING HAS DETERIORATED
REALLY..
SFX: YELLING AND SIGH
SFX: UGHH

EH... NO PROBLEM
ARE YOU GOING TO BE OK AT TOMORROW'S CHRISTMAS PARTY?

AI YORI AOSHI
COMIC STRIP
WEEK 5
CHRISTMAS

SFX: WHISTLE

I'LL HELP KAORU-SAN PUT ONE UP TOO
THAT'S GREAT! I'LL ALSO PUT A SOCK UP
THEY SAY IF YOU HANG UP THESE SOCKS, SANTA WILL PUT PRESENTS INTO THEM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



CHAPTER 20 - DEEP IN THE HEART - END

藍より青し

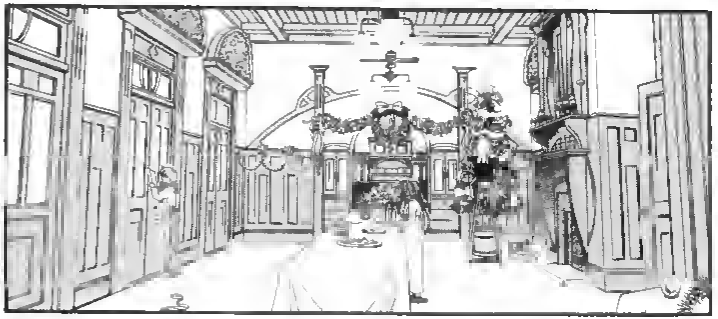
CHAPTER 21: CHRISTMAS

YOU'LL COME BACK EARLY TODAY, RIGHT?

KAORU-SAMA...

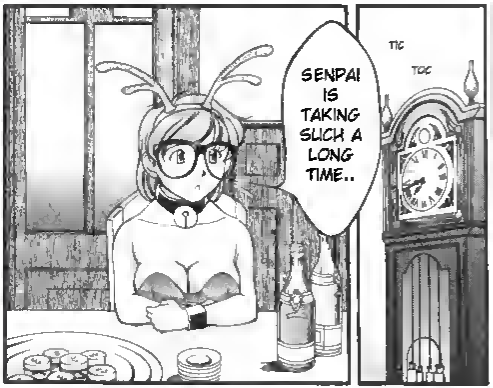
THAT DRESS IS ALREADY SOLD OUT...
I'M REALLY SORRY...

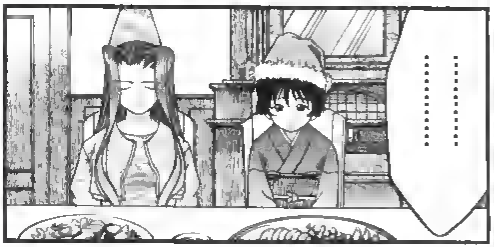
GIVE ME A MINUTE.
TAEKO-SAN, CAN YOU PLEASE PASS THAT TO ME.



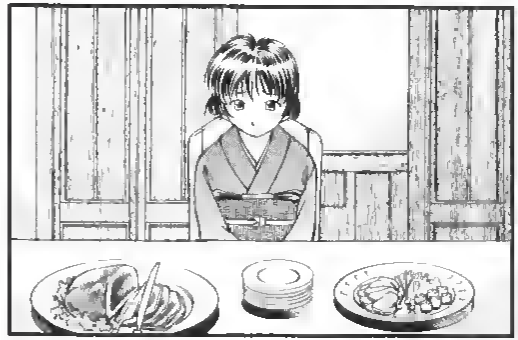
Merry X'mas
THAT DRESS

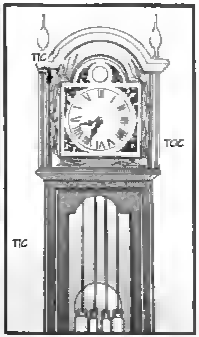
PLEASE COME BACK IN A MONTH WHEN WE'LL HAVE IT IN STOCK AGAIN.
I'M SORRY! THAT DRESS IS TAILOR-MADE.
HOW CAN IT BE?!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANOTHER IN STOCK?
PLEASE!!
DO YOU KNOW OF ANY OTHER SHOPS WHERE THEY MIGHT HAVE THE SAME DRESS?!

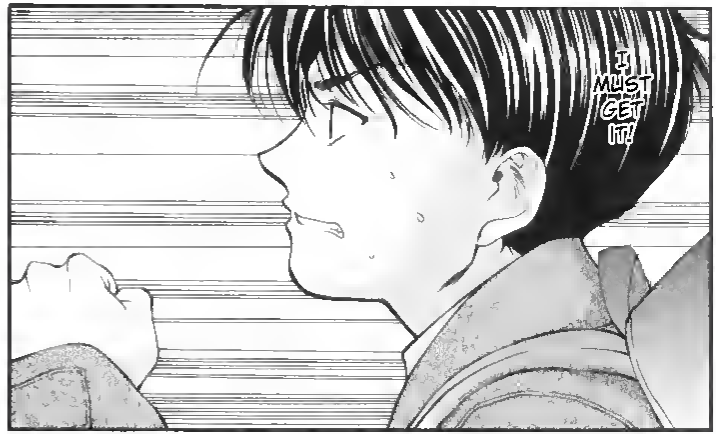

SENPAI IS TAKING SUCH A LONG TIME..
TIC
TOC

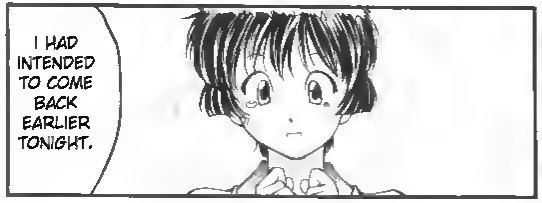

.....

WITHOUT THAT DRESS

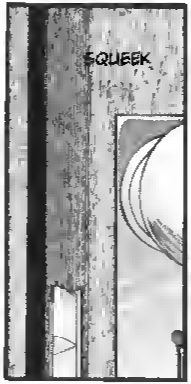


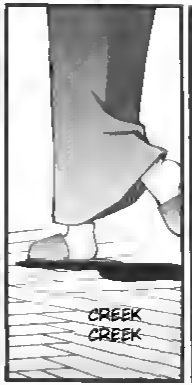

TIC
TOC
TIC

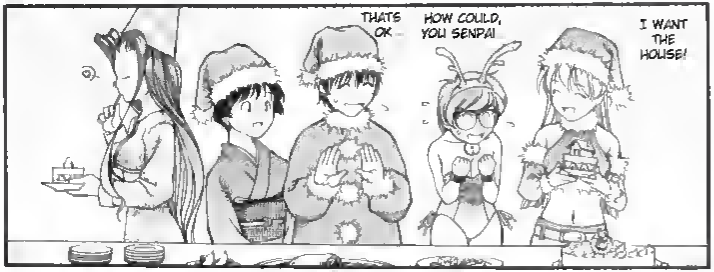

I MUST GET IT!

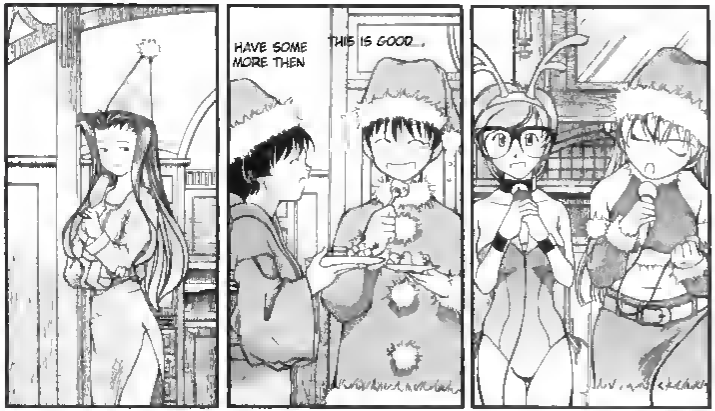


SFX GRAND-FATHER CLOCK CHIMING

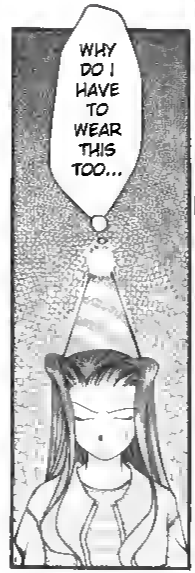


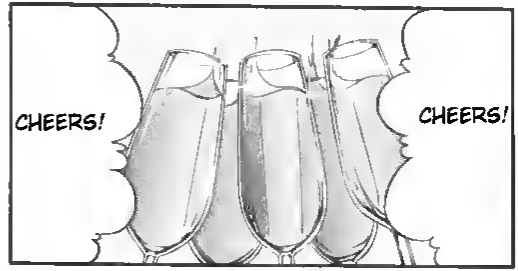


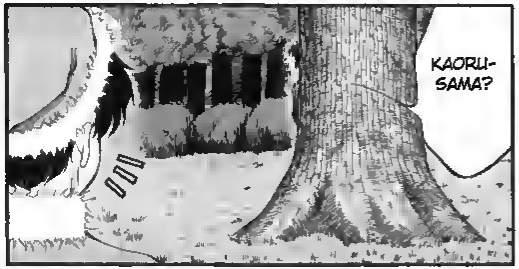


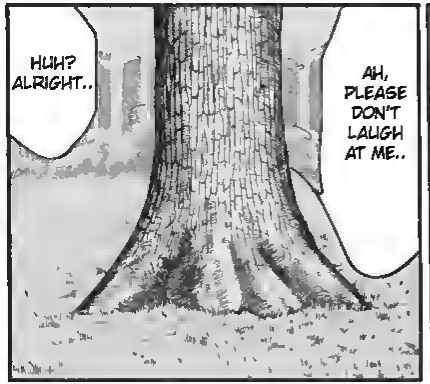


SFX. LAUGHTER



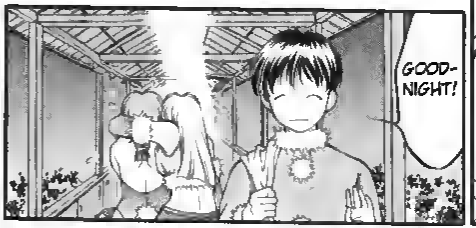


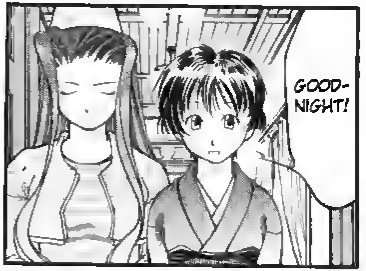

KAORU-SAMA?


HUH? ALRIGHT..
AH, PLEASE DON'T LAUGH AT ME..

YES.. IS THERE SOMETHING? AOI-CHAN?

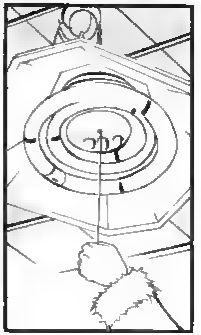
LET'S GO BACK.
EH...
TINA-SENPAI..


GOOD-NIGHT!

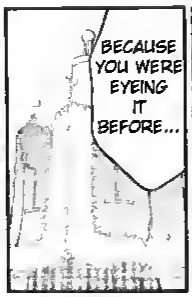

GOOD-NIGHT!

I WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE BACKYARD AT 1
-AOI

HM?

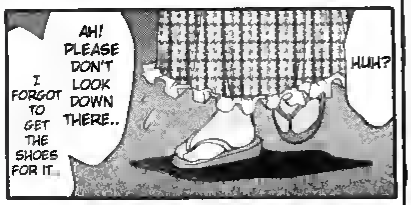


I-I HOPED THAT IT WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY...


BECAUSE YOU WERE EYEING IT BEFORE...

AOI-CHAN, THAT DRESS...

AH..
AH!


I FORGOT TO GET THE SHOES FOR IT..
AH! PLEASE DON'T LOOK DOWN THERE..
HUH?

.....

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

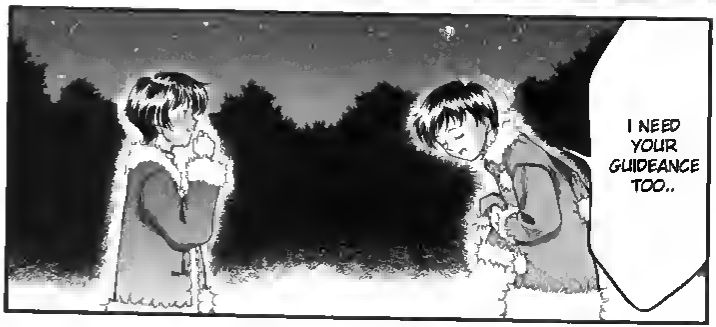
DOES THIS LOOK GOOD ON ME?

!!

.....
THANK YOU...
HMM, JUST AS I GUESSED...
IT LOOKS VERY NICE ON YOU, AOI-CHAN
KAORU-SAMA...

WHAT A COINCIDENCE..
DON'T TELL ME YOU...!!
WHY DO YOU HAVE THOSE SHOES?
!!

PLEASE GUIDE ME THROUGH NEXT YEAR...


I NEED YOUR GUIDEANCE TOO..

AH.. IT'S GREAT..
SNOW!

AH.. KAORU-SAMA..

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HoshiManga

RAW-PROVIDER:
IODINE ERIC
TRANSLATOR:
LUGIA2003/CAMERA
EDITOR:
NIGHTBIRD
PROOFREADER:
THE MIGHTY HIGHLORD
SALLE

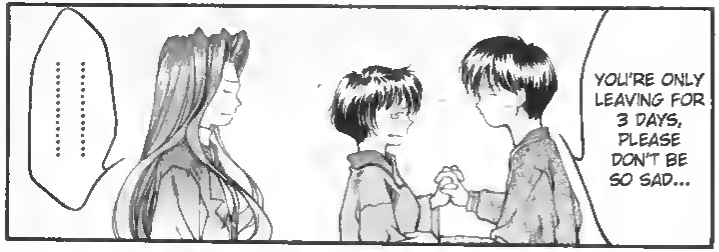
I HOPE THAT NEXT YEAR WILL BE GREAT!

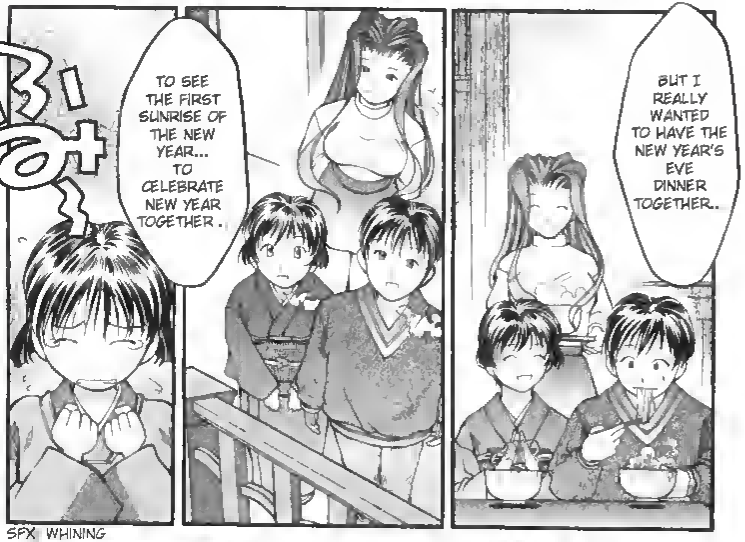
「第二十一話　降誕祭ーこうたんさいー　おわり」

藍より青し

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Presented by:
HoshiManga

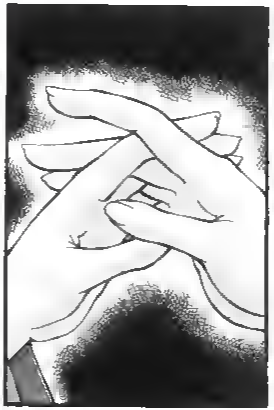

……
YOU'RE ONLY LEAVING FOR 3 DAYS, PLEASE DON'T BE SO SAD...


ふぃ
TO SEE THE FIRST SUNRISE OF THE NEW YEAR... TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR TOGETHER.
BUT I REALLY WANTED TO HAVE THE NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER TOGETHER..

SFX WHINING

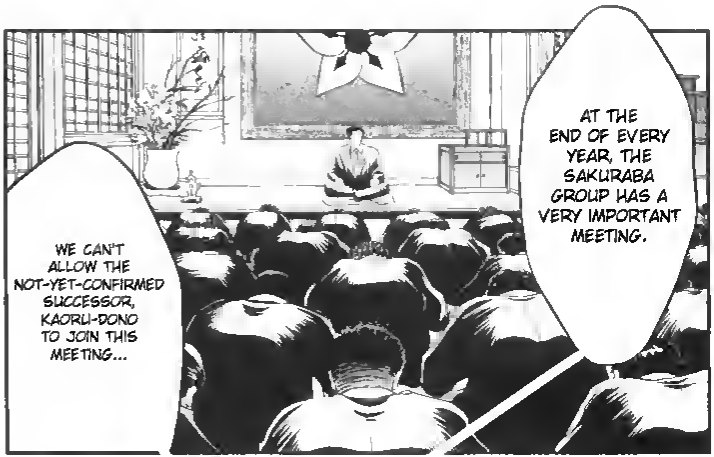
PLEASE BE PATIENT, AOI-SAMA

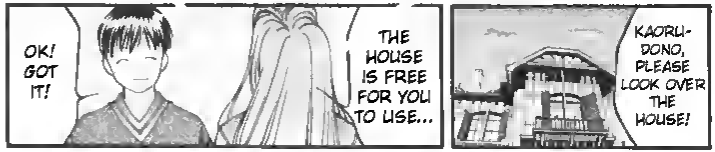
KAORU-SAMA...
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF...



……
AOI-CHAN...

TAKE CARE!
TIC
TIC
TIC
15 HOURS TILL NEXT YEAR


AT THE END OF EVERY YEAR, THE SAKURABA GROUP HAS A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING.
WE CAN'T ALLOW THE NOT-YET-CONFIRMED SUCCESSOR, KAORU-DONO TO JOIN THIS MEETING...


OK! GOT IT!
THE HOUSE IS FREE FOR YOU TO USE...
KAORU-DONO, PLEASE LOOK OVER THE HOUSE!

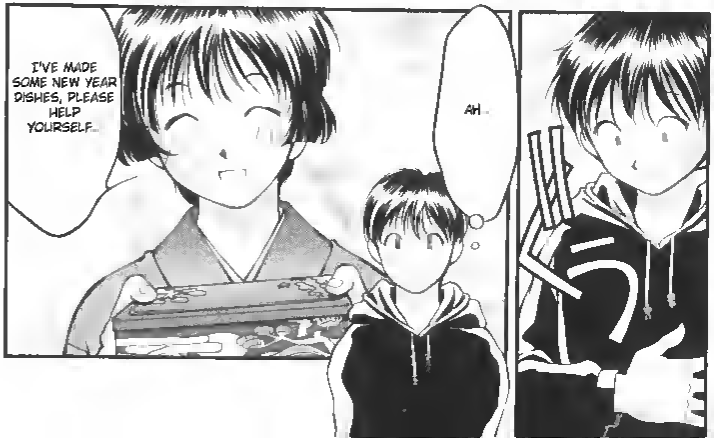
OK...
I'M LEAVING NOW...

HMM. I WONDER WHAT DELICACIES THERE ARE?

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH!
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
WHA... WHAT?
GOOD MORNING!!

TINA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

THE LIVELY ATMOS-PHERE IS GONE WHEN I'M ALONE... I FEEL SO LONELY.
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.
BYE BYE!
TINA AND TAEKO ALSO LEFT YESTER-DAY.


I'VE MADE SOME NEW YEAR DISHES, PLEASE HELP YOURSELF.
AH.

HUH.. REALLY...
AOI-CHAN AND MIYABI-SAN HAVE RETURNED HOME..
SO IT MEANS THAT WE TWO ARE ALONE TOGETHER..
ALONE TOGETHER...

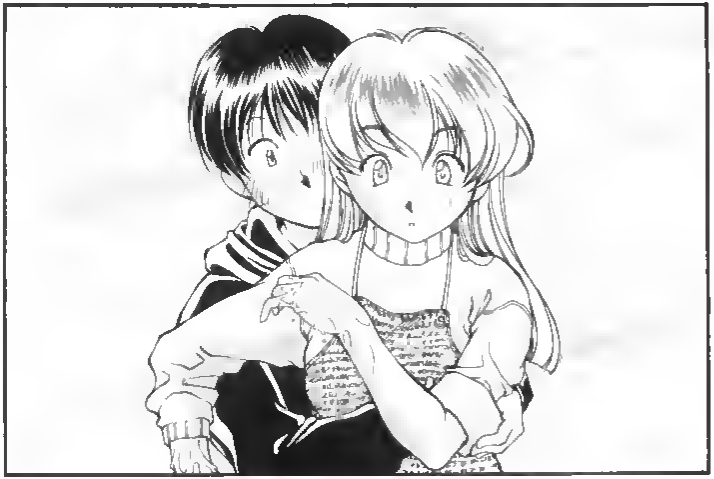
ゲホゲホ
SFX-COUGH COUG-

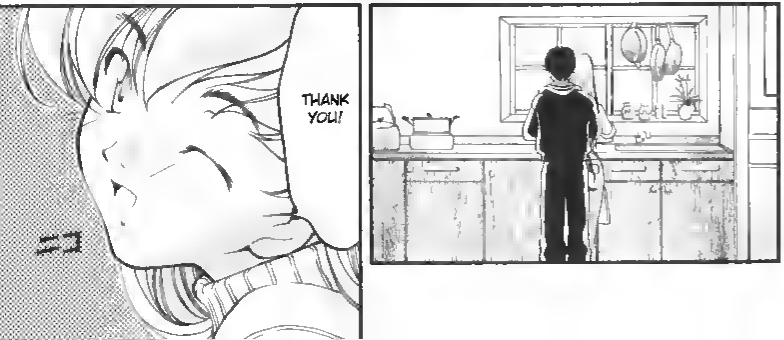
ACTYALLY I DIDN'T ARRANGE FOR A TICKET TO RETURN TO AMERICA...
I INTENDED TO WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO CANCEL THE FLIGHT DURING THE NIGHT AND THEN FILL THE VACANCY, BUT NO LUCK, SO I JUST CAME BACK...
そっ〜ハラヘッテハラヘッテ

HUH? WHERE'S THE LANDLADY?
THEN WE'LL ASK THE LANDLADY TO MAKE MORE..

AH. REALLY?
MY NEW YEAR DELICACY...

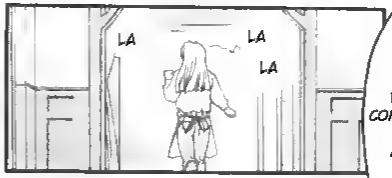
AH.. HURRY!
AH!?
COULD YOU PLEASE PULL UP MY SLEEVE FROM BEHIND..
KAORU!




THANK YOU!

W-WHAT IS IT?

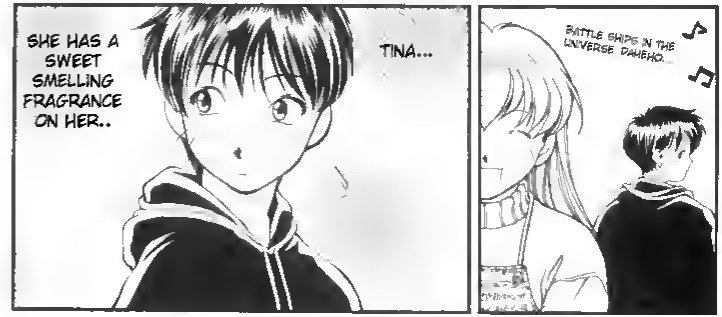
KAORU?


LA
LA
LA

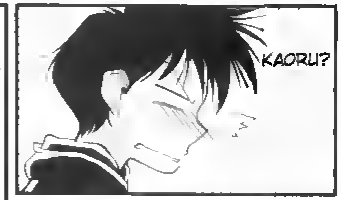
I'LL MAKE YOU DINNER AS COMPENSATION.. HOLD ON A MINUTE..
ARE YOU HUNGRY?

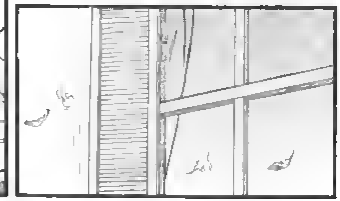
WHAT AM I THINKING?

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT.. DON'T THINK ABOUT IT..
THERE IS NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT IT.


SHE HAS A SWEET SMELLING FRAGRANCE ON HER..
TINA...
BATTLE SHIPS IN THE UNIVERSE DAMEHO...

PASTA!
SORRY FOR THE LONG WAIT...
WOW, YOU KNOW HOW TO PREPARE SOMETHING LIKE THIS??


KAORU?



NO! THIS IS ENOUGH!
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU WANT ME TO PREPARE FOR YOU?

MMM. IT'S NOT BAD!

KAORU, DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS?

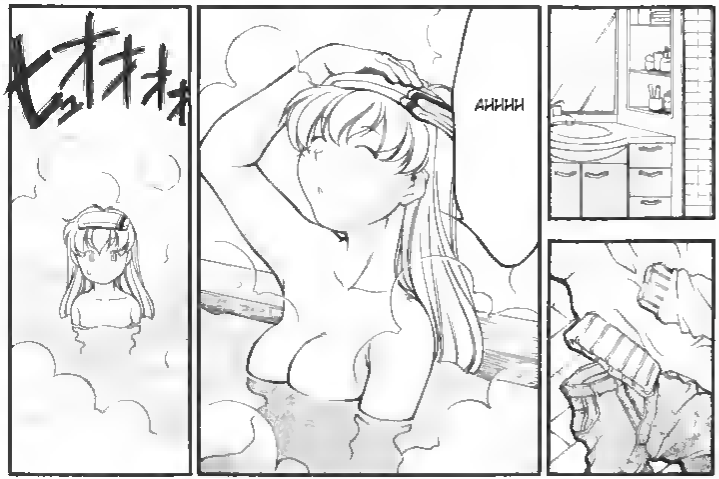
IF YOU KNOW HOW TO PREPARE SOMETHING LIKE THIS, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS LIVING ALONE..

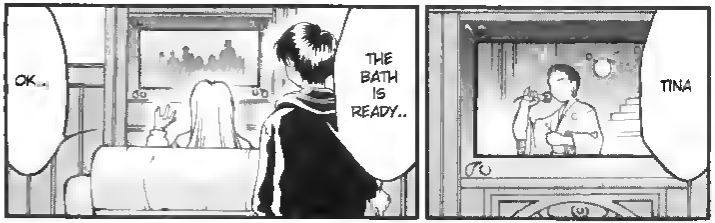
I.... I..

HUH?!

BESIDES, THE FOOD THA THE LANDLADY PREPARES IS SO NICE..
YES! YES...
I THINK THAT IT'S VERY TROUBLESOME TO COOK EVERYDAY..

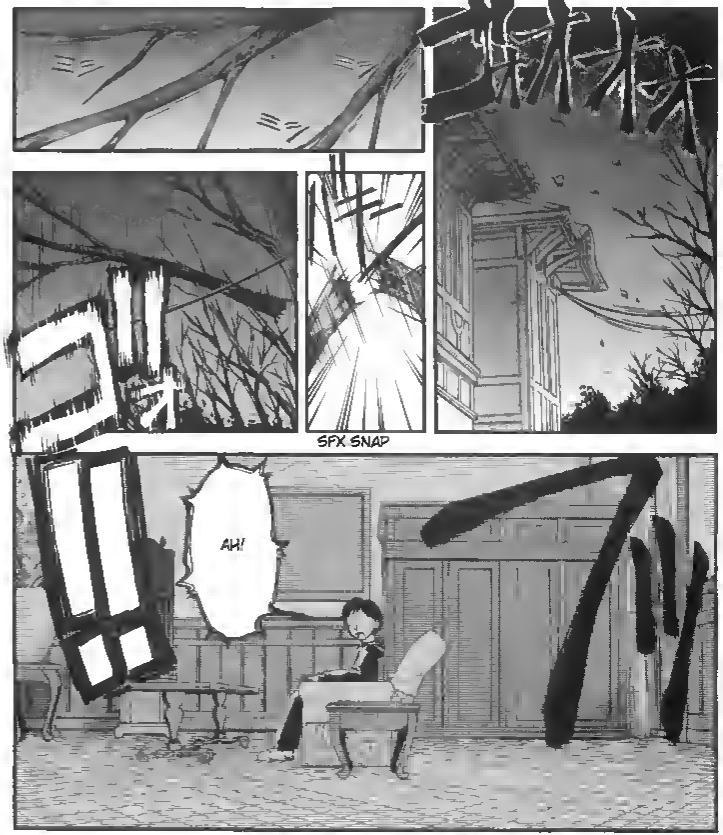
YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE YOUR BATH RIGHT, TINA?
HUH?
HAHAHA
AH.. YEAH..


AHHHH


OK..
THE BATH IS READY..
TINA

SFX WIND BLOWING, HOUSE CREEKING

OI, TINA!
TINA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I WONDER IF TINA IS ALRIGHT.
TINA?!
WHAA!?
KA-
OR-
U!!!


SFX SNAP
AH!
SFX (POWER GOING OUT)
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO FIND A CANDLE
WHAT A HEADACHE, WHERE IS THE POWER BOX FOR THIS HOUSE?
THE POWER...

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE..
MUST NOT PUT HANDS THERE
I'M SO SCARED
HEY, TINA!
I DOUBT THE POWER WILL RETURN TONIGHT..
AH?!
I DUN WANNA.
WITH THIS CANDLE, YOU'LL BE FINE, GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM AND HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S REST.
IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?

IT'S SO SCARY!
I'M SO SCARED, KAORU!
KAORU..
WHAAA
TINA JUST CAME OUT NAKED!

Presented by:

HoshiManga

RAW-PROVIDER:
IODINE ERIC

TRANSLATOR:
CAMERA

EDITOR:
NIGHTBIRD

PROOFREADER:
THE MIGHTY HIGHLORD
CALORN

WHAT?!
I WANT TO SLEEP WITH YOU!
I'M VERY AFRAID OF THE DARK! I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP ALONE!
NO, I WANT TO SLEEP WITH YOU!
IT'S ALRIGHT, NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
WITH THIS I CAN SLEEP IN PEACE.

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

第二十三話　三朝―さんちょう―

CHAPTER 23 SANCHOU
FIRST THREE DAYS OF THE YEAR

ぼ～～っ
……
チチチ
TIKA'S ALREADY AWAKE...?
MIKA～～?!

I ALMOST THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO EXPLODE. DON'T KNOW HOW I DIDN'T...
IT WAS HARD ENOUGH WITH AOI-CHAN..
...BUT IT WAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT KIND OF HARD WITH TINA.

OH, KAORU! GOOD MORNING !!
GOOD MORNING ...
GIVE ME ONE MORE MINUTE..
..AND I'LL HAVE BREAK-FAST ALL READY FOR YOU
KAORU ...
THANKS FOR LAST NIGHT..
UH, SURE...

giggle
HOW'S IT GOING, KAORU?!

WE SHOULD HAVE POWER AGAIN SOON.
THANK GOODNESS. I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE STOOD ANOTHER NIGHT IN THE DARK
You'd have to take care of me again
Please not that
HEY, WHILE WE WAIT, LET'S GO TO THE TEMPLE FOR THE NEW YEAR CEREMONIES!
EH ?!
NOW ?!
YEAH! HUSTLE! HUSTLE!!

CHARMS
TINA!!
STOP!!
I WANT TO GO UP FRONT AND RING THE BELL!!
CAN'T WE JUST MAKE OUR OFFERING FROM HERE?
NOOOO!!

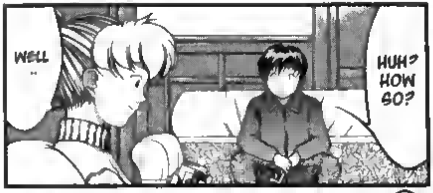
I WANNA RING THE BELL!!
I WANNA RING THE BELL!!
ALL RIGHT ALREADY !!
BECAUSE I USED TO RING IT WITH MY MOM AND DAD IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I'VE HAD THE CHANCE!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO RING THE STUPID BELL SO BAD?!
I CAN'T PASS THIS CHANCE UP. I WANNA DO IT!
.....
CAN'T... BREATHE

OKAY, THEN, LET'S GO FOR IT!
LET'S RING IT GOOD AND RING IT LOUD!
YAY!!
EXCUSE US!
SORRY!
WE MADE IT.

UM.. WHAT SHOULD I WISH FOR..?
チャリン
IT'S BEST TO ASK FOR EVERYONE TO STAY HEALTHY
ぱん ぱん
ガラン ガラン
MAY THE EARTH BE HAPPY AND LIVE AT PEACE !!

IS SOMETHING AMUSING TO YOU?!
HUH?!
!?
huh, huh
NO— NOT AT ALL—
?!
HAHAHA
おはは
TINA, YOU'RE AMAZING!
EHEHEH
エヘヘ
SHEESH!
COME ON! WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

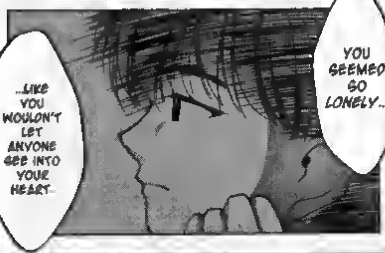
はははっ
HAHAHA
...AND I WAS TOTALLY SHOCKED I COULDN'T EVEN MOVE!!
YOU'RE LYING!
HAHAHA
.....


WELL ..
HUH? HOW SO?

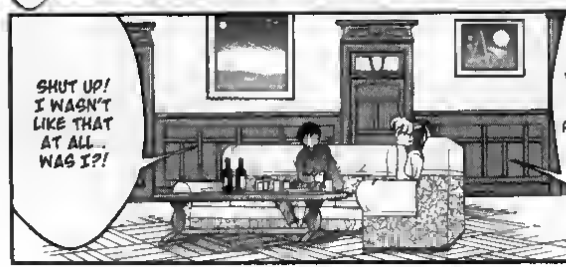
YOU'VE CHANGED, KAORU

...HOW CAN I PUT THIS?

WHEN I FIRST MET YOU ...
Hi there!

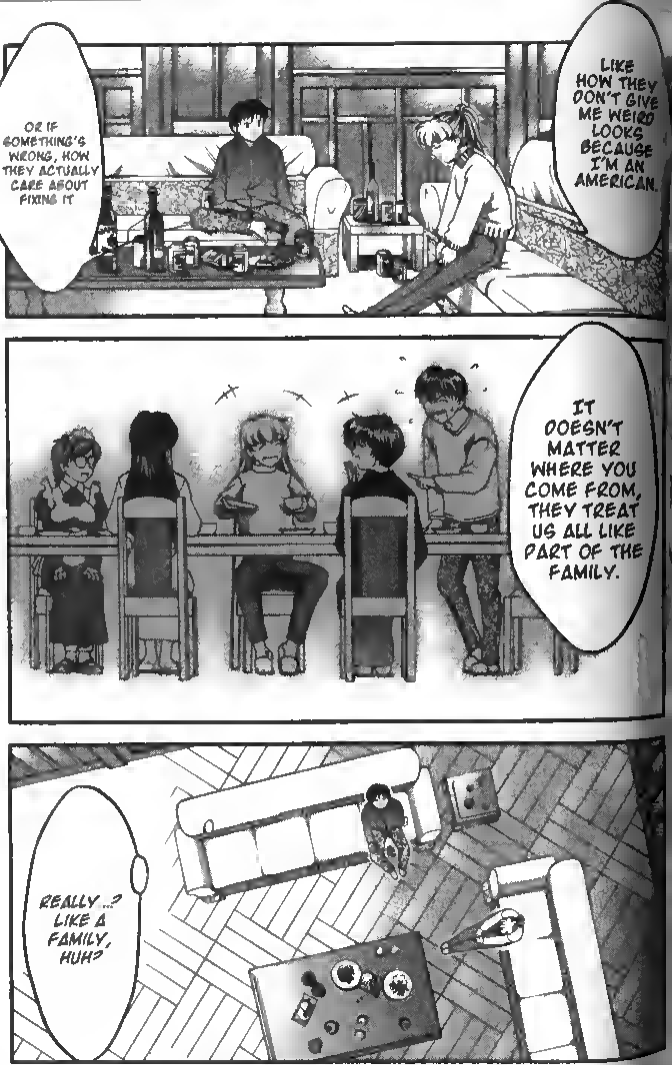

...LIKE YOU WOULDN'T LET ANYONE SEE INTO YOUR HEART

YOU SEEMED SO LONELY..


SHUT UP! I WASN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL.. WAS I?!
THAT'S WHY I INVITED YOU INTO THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

I NOTICED A DIFFERENCE WHEN I GOT BACK FROM THE U.S. BUT I ONLY BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND THE CHANGE WHEN I MOVED IN HERE
YOU WERE
I SHOULD KNOW I'VE ALWAYS KEPT AN EYE ON YOU, KAORU

IT'S VERY CALMING
IT'S THE SURROUNDINGS, AND THE FACT THAT YOU'RE WITH GOOD PEOPLE


LIKE HOW THEY DON'T GIVE ME WEIRD LOOKS BECAUSE I'M AN AMERICAN.
OR IF SOMETHING'S WRONG, HOW THEY ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT FIXING IT
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU COME FROM, THEY TREAT US ALL LIKE PART OF THE FAMILY.
REALLY...? LIKE A FAMILY, HUH?

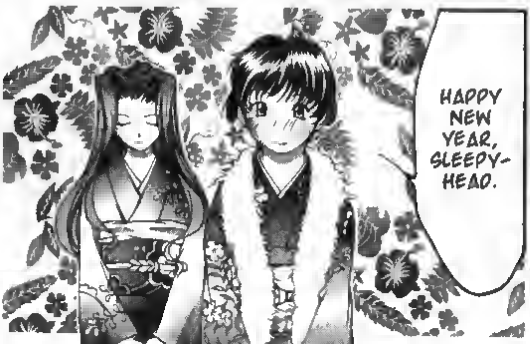
IT'S OUR LANDLADY... I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE HER...
SHE'S NATURALLY GOOD-NATURED... AND SHE REALLY KNOWS HOW TO TAKE CARE OF ALL OF US.
SHE'S THE EPITOME OF YAMATO NADESICO... THE MODEL OF A JAPANESE WOMAN.

I WISH I COULD BE LIKE THAT, BUT I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START!

YOU KNOW...
...I WISH I HAD BEEN BORN JAPANESE, SO I COULD BE LIKE HER.

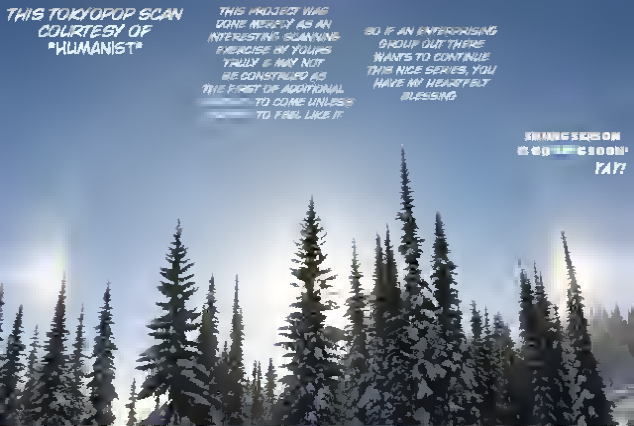
HUH? THEN WHAT?
SO I HAD, THINK I..
TINA..
YE
IT'S NOTHING.
NEVER MIND.
DRINK UP, YOU WUSS!

°ALL RIGHT, LETS GET



GEH...!
KAORU-DONO!!
HEY! WHERE'S TINA...?
A plane ticket came though so I went home.
Please clean up!!
WHA--? OH! HAPPY NEW YEAR!
I'm so happy to see you!
くちっ
...BUT I DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD DESTROY IT!!
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU COULD FEEL FREE TO STAY IN THE MANSION...
Awwwww... no fair
START CLEANING, SUCKO! I WANT THIS PLACE BACK THE WAY YOU FOUND IT!

End of Chapter 23: Sanchou—First Three Days of the New Year


THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN COURTESY OF *HUMANIST*
THIS PROJECT WAS DONE MERELY AS AN INTERESTING SCANNING EXERCISE AT YOURS TRULY & MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED AS THE FIRST OF ADDITIONAL TO COME UNLESS TO FEEL LIKE IT
SO IF AN ENTERPRISING GROUP OUT THERE WANTS TO CONTINUE THIS NICE SERIES, YOU HAVE MY HEARTFELT BLESSING
SEE YOU SOON YA!?

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

第二十四話　蛍雪―けいせつ―

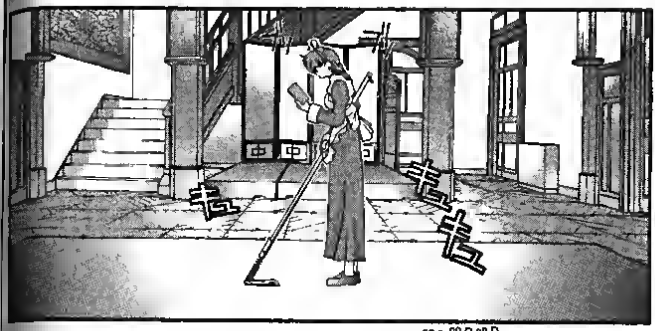
CHAPTER 24 KEISETSU DILIGENT STUDY

I-I'M SORRY!
MINAZUKI-SAN!!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE BREAK SO MUCH DISHWARE! I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE ARE ANY PLATES LEFT IN JAPAN!
ガチーン
YOU'VE BEEN WORSE THAN EVER THESE PAST FEW DAYS. YOU NEED TO GET IT TOGETHER, AND DO IT QUICK!
TAEKO-SAN, PLEASE GO DO THE LAUNDRY.
DON'T WORRY, MIYABI-SAN. I'LL CLEAN THIS UP.
.....
YES MIGS. I REALLY AM SORRY

TAEKO-SAN MEANS WELL SHE JUST SEEMS REALLY TIRED LATELY.
NOT MUCH JUST MINAZUKI-SAN'S BOO'N SCREW-UP
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF MID-TERMS
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
GOOD MORNING, AOI-CHAN, MIYABI-SAN.
Ah! Good morning
REALLY ?
IN FACT, NOW THAT YOU MEN-TION IT, I'VE NOTICED SHE'S BEEN STUDYING PRETTY LATE...
CRY ME A RIVER! WORK IS WORK, SCHOOL IS SCHOOL IF SHE CAN'T BALANCE BOTH, THEN SHE NEEDS TO GIVE ONE UP

YOU'VE GOT A PHILOSOPHY TEST TOMORROW, RIGHT?
TAEKO-CHAN!!
I'VE GOT MY OLD EXAM. IT SHOULD BE PRETTY HELPFUL. THE QUESTIONS DON'T USUALLY CHANGE MUCH.
OH ...!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
KAORUUUU, HELP! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!
HUH?!
I CAN'T PASS THIS LEVEL ON MY GAME.
.....

カカカ
LUCKY!!
Evil wench.
Straight-A city!
NOT LIKELY! I'M ONLY TAKING EASY CLASSES!!
TINA-SENPAI, DON'T YOU NEED TO STUDY FOR YOUR EXAMS?!
DON'T WORRY, TAEKO-SAN IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE WITH, WE CAN HELP
YOU'VE GOT A LOT ON YOUR PLATE, BUT YOU CAN DO IT!
OKAY!!



HAHAHA
あはは
'KAY.
AND HERE

I-
I'M SO
SORRY!

TAE-CHIIIN! MAKE ROOM FOR ONE MORE!!
yay!~
EEEEEEK!!
TAE-CHIN, TAE-CHIN!!
LAND-LADY-GAAAAH!

No! Miyabi-san is going to kill me
I ONLY GOT TWO HOURS OF SLEEP.. I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP
TAEKO-SAN!!
HYAAAAH!!
OH, NO! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU!
NO, IT'S MY FAULT. I WAS TOTALLY ZONING OUT...

ME?! I'M GREAT! PEACHY! SEE?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! ARE YOU GETTING ENOUGH REST?
TAEKO-SAN, NO ONE WILL HOLD IT AGAINST YOU IF YOU TAKE A HIATUS FROM WORK TO PREPARE FOR SCHOOL...
THAT'S VERY GOOD OF YOU...
..BUT IF I WERE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT SOME-THING THAT TRIVIAL, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FACE MY MOTHER

SHE'S MY ONLY FAMILY, AND SHE'S ENDURED SO MUCH HARDSHIP
MY FATHER DIED WHEN I WAS SMALL...
...AND MY MOTHER WAS FORCED TO RAISE ME ON HER OWN
...Scoring average has increased steadily since...
SHE ALWAYS DID HER BEST, THOUGH, AND NEVER COMPLAINED
I'm making dinner now
Mom, I'm hungry!
I'm home
Tae-Zhan
WELCOME BACK!

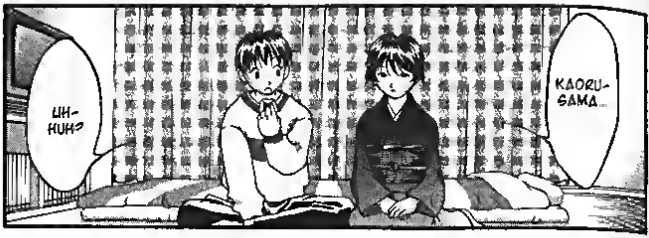
SHE BROKE HER BACK FOR ME, NEVER ONCE THINKING OF HERSELF.
SHE'S MY HERO, AND IF I GAVE UP ON MY DUTIES, I'D FEEL LIKE I WAS LETTING HER DOWN
TO BE LIKE HER..
I HAVE TO WORK HARD TOO!!
OH, TAEKO-SAN
AH! DON'T GIVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT!

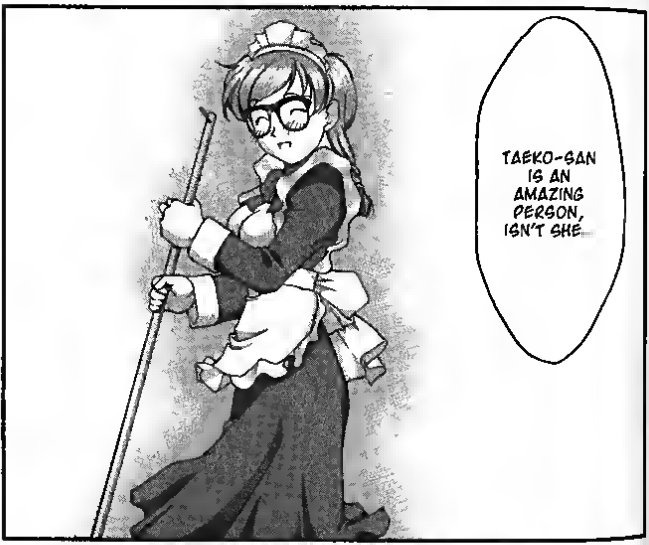
BESIDES, AS CLUMSY AS I AM, IF I DON'T TRY EXTRA HARD, I'LL END UP BEING PRETTY USELESS!

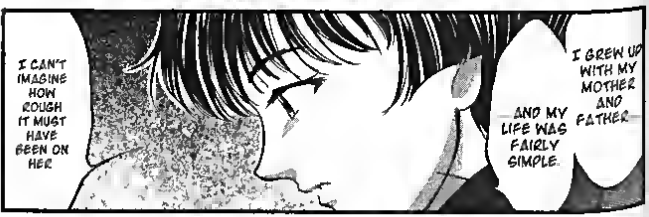
MY MOTHER...
...HAD FAITH IN ME, THOUGH.

THANKS GOOD NIGHT.
I THINK YOU'LL DO FINE.
THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.
YOU CAN PROBABLY EXPECT THIS ON THE LAST TEST.
おーーーーし
JEEZ, IT'S LATE! I NEED TO GET CRACKING ON MY OWN STUDYING!
コンコン
COME IN
WHAT IS IT, TAEKO-CHA
ガチャ

I WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW PROUD I AM OF YOU, KAORU-SAMA
AOI-CHAN!!
I DIDN'T KNEW SHE'D SAY NO, SO I SNUCK OUT!
ちーん
OH! PLEASE EAT IT BEFORE IT GETS COLD
YOU BET!
HOW DID YOU GET MIYABI-SAN TO LET YOU OUT OF THE HOUSE SO LATE?
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HUNGRY, SO I BOUGHT ONIGIRI!
THANKS!
*onigiri: rice balls


UH-HUH?
KAORU-SAMA...


TAEKO-SAN IS AN AMAZING PERSON, ISN'T SHE...


I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW ROUGH IT MUST HAVE BEEN ON HER
I GREW UP WITH MY MOTHER AND FATHER...
AND MY LIFE WAS FAIRLY SIMPLE.

IT MAKES MY HEART BREAK JUST TO THINK ABOUT IT...
BUT, BEING NEXT TO YOU, KAORU-SAMA,
...AND MAKING YOU ONIGIRI...
LIKE TONIGHT—
—BEING ABLE TO TOUCH YOU LIKE THIS TAKES MY WORRIES AWAY—

KAORU-SAMA...
CAN YOU FORGIVE ME FOR BEING SO SELFISH?!
AOI-CHAN...

SENDAAAAI! MAY I COME IN?!
I HAVE A QUESTION
OH NO! WHAT SHOULD I DO?! WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
AN WA WA
HOW RUDE OF ME!
OH, NO! YOU WERE ABOUT TO GO TO SLEEP, WEREN'T YOU?
I'M SORRY, BUT SOMETHING ELSE OCCURRED TO ME
IT'S FINE. DON'T WORRY. WHAT'S UP?!

UM IT'S THIS THING HERE
OH, THAT
PHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE
TRY IT LIKE THIS
AAHH, I GET IT
.....
すり
すり
KAORU-SAMA YOU'RE SO WARM
.....
THEN HERE
SCHUU!

G'NIGHT!
THANK YOU SO MUCK FOR YOUR HELP! GOOD NIGHT!
EH..?
AOI-CHAN, I'M SORRY! ARE YOU OK..Y?!
SLEEP WELL, AOI-CHAN!!
HEH SHE'S SO WORRIED ABOUT TAEKO-CHAN, SHE CAN'T SEE HOW HARD SHE'S BEEN WORKING HERSELF..

End of Chapter 24: Keisetsu—Diligent Study

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
"HUMANIST"

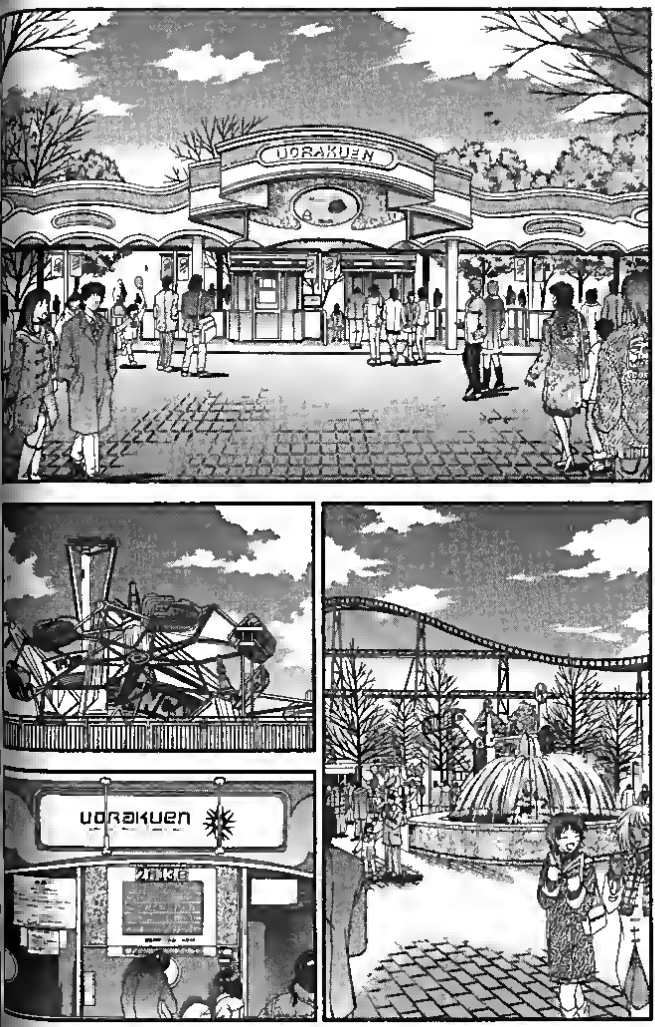
SO I FELT LIKE IT.
ENJOY THE CHAPTER.

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

第二十五話　小春―こはる―

CHAPTER 25　KOHARU WARM DAYS


UORAKUEN
UORAKUEN

WOW, IT'S FANTASTIC!!
IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I'VE BEEN TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK
EXAMS ARE OVER! IT'S TIME FOR SOME FUN!
I HOPE I PASSED...
TOO BAD MIYAHI-SAN WOULDN'T COME
POOR THING
I HAVE WORK TO DO.
PLEASE GET BACK TO CLASS!!
LET'S SKIP RIGHT OVER THE WIMPY RIDES AND GO FOR THE SHUTTLE LOOP!!
IT'S THE SCARIEST RIDE IN THE ENTIRE PLACE!
AND SO YOU WANT US ALL TO DIE WITH YOU?

SHUTTLE LOOP
WOO-HOO!
some sick joke
ARE YOU NUTS? LET'S DITCH THIS KILLJOY!
HEH-HEH. I'LL WAIT OUT HERE, THANKS!

EEAAH!!
GUEEEHHH!!
I HOPE KAORU-SAMA IS ALL RIGHT...
Sign: Mansion of Fear
IT LOOKS SPOOKY!
HEY! LET'S GO IN THERE!
WOO! MY ADRENALINE'S PUMPING!
Are you sure?

NO THANKS! I'LL PASS!
NOOO!
QUIT KIDDING AROUND! IT'LL BE FUN!!
COME ON, COME ON!
WELL... HOW SCARY CAN IT BE?
オオオ
HA HA HA HA HA!
THIS IS THE BEST!!

LOOK, LOOK, THIS IS REALLY WELL-MADE!
How adorable!
KYAAAAAAAAHH!!
KORU-SAMAAAA!
I'M SCARED!!
KAOKUUU!!
EEEEEEK!!
AAAAAHHHH!!
COOL!!♡
Somebody please kill me
WASN'T THAT FUN?

KAORU, LET'S GO ON THAT!!
GOOD LUCK!
I hope he's okay
THIS ONE! THIS ONE!
AND THIS!
How are you?
LET'S SEE, LET'S SEE, WHAT'S NEXT.

HN ?!
TINA-SENPAI, LOOK, LOOK!!
You've got no stamina!
WHAT IS IT, KAORU? YOU'RE POOPED ALREADY?!
TINA... SORRY LET ME REST A MINUTE...
DON'T MIND ME GO ON AHEAD
YOU'RE RIGHT!!
THAT'S THE MEGA DROP! IT'S LEGENDARY !!
WHAAA?! YOU'RE NOT COMING?
OKAY WE'LL MEET BACK HERE AT THREE O'CLOCK
Okay, enjoy yourselves!
WE'LL STAY AND CHEER YOU ON FROM HERE GO HAVE FUN!

UH, OKAY..
OH, I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING.. WAIT HERE A MINUTE!
HERE!! KAORU-SAMA
I'M SORRY WE CAME HERE TO HAVE FUN AND I'M ALREADY EXHAUSTED...
MM. IT'S SO COLD AND YUMMY
THANKS!

YOU DON'T THINK IT'S FUN SITTING HERE TOGETHER? BECAUSE I DO!
It's so cute!
KAORU-SAMA, WHAT'S THIS THING?!
IT'S A COMPATIBILITY TEST. WHEN YOU FEED IT YOUR INFORMATION, IT TELLS YOU IF YOU BELONG TOGETHER OR NOT
It's really just a game.
Another World
WANT TO TRY IT?!
YES!!

WHAT'S WRONG, AOI-CHAN?!
すぅはぁ〜
I DON'T KNOW I WAS JUST SUDDENLY SCARED TO LOOK!
What if were not compatible ?
THEN LET'S LOOK AT IT TOGETHER !!
ONE, TWO...
I'M SO GLAD!! KAORU-SAMA!
WA WA!
HEY! WE GOT AN A PERFECT!

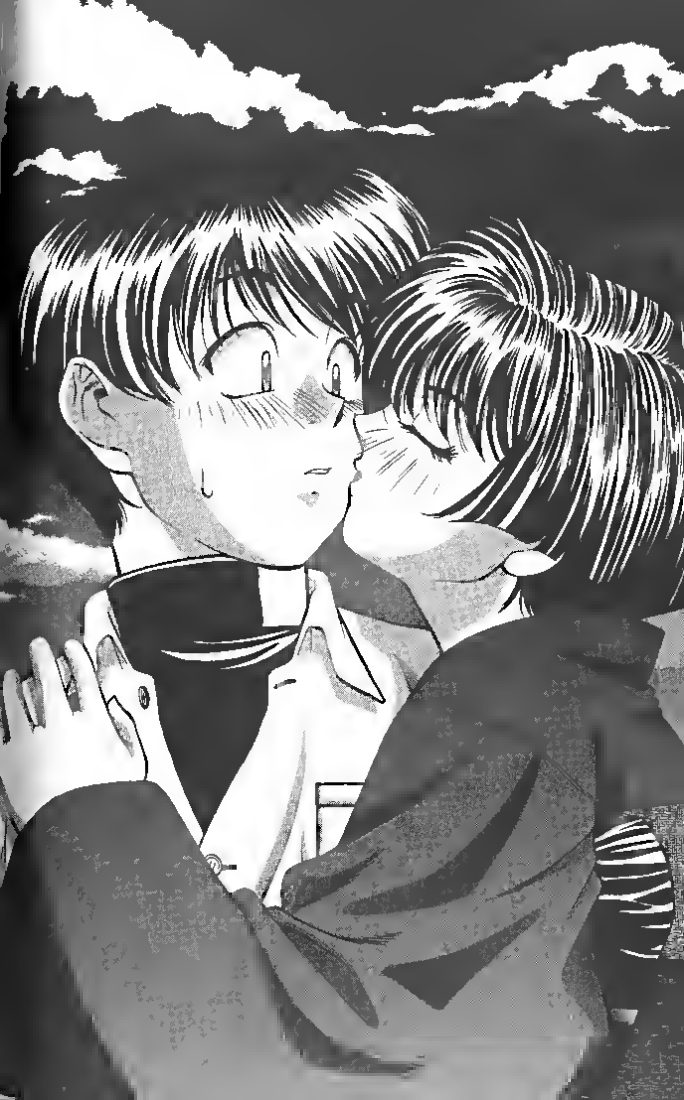
AOI-CHAN, WANT TO RIDE THE FERRIS WHEEL?!
UH... UM...
O-OKAY!!
NEXT IN LINE!
UM KAORU-SAMA, IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I SIT NEXT TO YOU?!
NOT AT ALL
OOHH, WE'RE GOING UP, WE'RE GOING UP!

Eh
DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T LIKE THE FERRIS WHEEL?!
...AOI-CHAN
I THOUGHT I WOULD BE OKAY BECAUSE I WAS WITH YOU...
Really?! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
...AOI-CHAN, LOOK!!
I'll be all right

WAAA!!
AH! THAT'S RIGHT!! THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO GIVE YOU.
YUO!!
IT'S SO PRETTY!
YES!!
SHOULD I OPEN IT HERE?
!?
HERE!

I KNOW VALENTINE'S DAY ISN'T UNTIL TOMORROW, BUT I DION'T WANT TO GIVE IT TO YOU IN FRONT OF EVERYONE
PLUS ..
COOL!! CHOCOLATE!
...I WANTED MY CANDY TO BE THE FIRST THAT YOU ATE!

MM IT'S DELI-CIOUS
モグモグ
DO YOU LIKE IT?!
THANK YOU, AOI-CHAN
THANK GOODNESS...
I WAS NERVOUS. I'VE NEVER MADE CHOCOLATE MYSELF BEFORE.
HOLD STILL FOR A SECOND...
EH? WHERE?!
TEE-HEE! THERE'S CHOCOLATE ON YOUR FACE...



AH.....
.....
I-I'm sorry! What was I__ I was so happy, I__
クン
クン
クン
クン
クン
クス
ヒック
OKAY, KIDS, LAST STOP!

HURRY IT UP, YOU TWO! YOU'RE LATE!!
SORRY...
ALL RIGHT! LOOKS LIKE OUR BOY GOT HIS SECOND WIND!
I THINK THIS CALLS FOR A SECOND GO 'ROUND ON THE SHUTTLE LOOP!!
NOT A CHANCE!!

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
"HUMANIST"

WHILE I WAS AT IT,
I DID THIS ONE, TOO.
ENJOY THE CHAPTER.

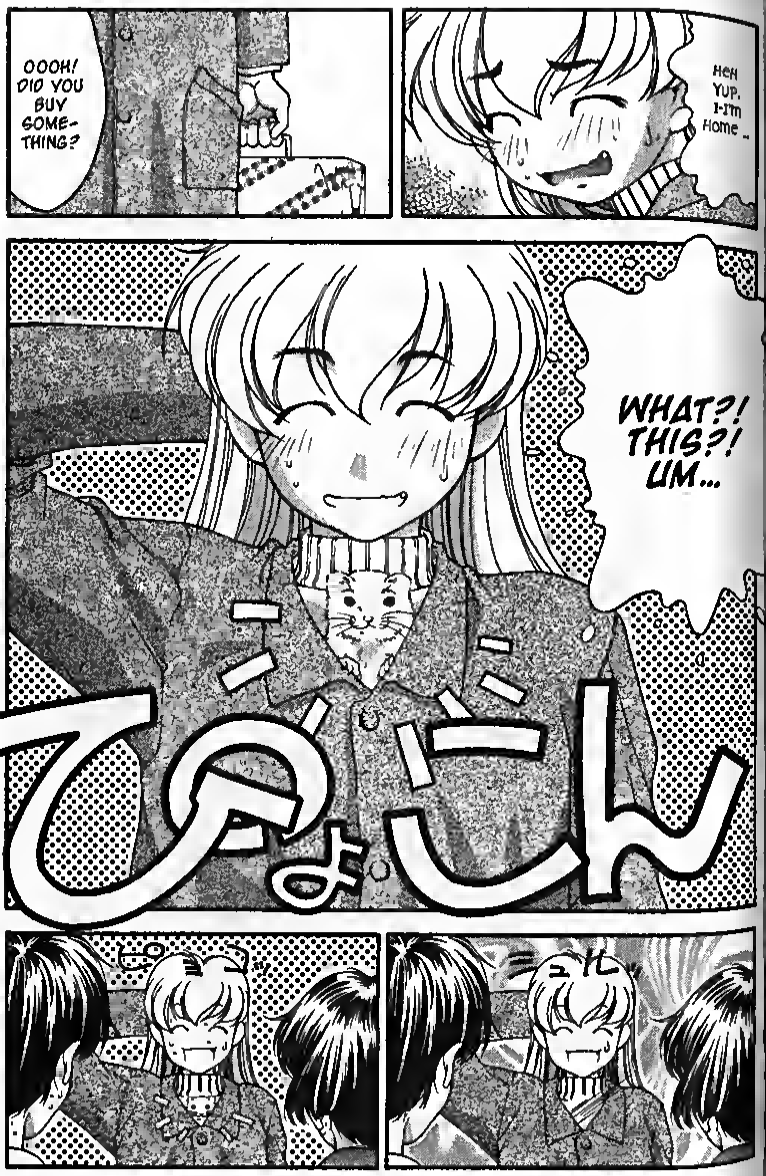
藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

第二十六話　愛玩—あいがん—

CHAPTER 26 AIGAN FONDNESS

ヤララ…
そろり
そろり
HEY, TINA!! WELCOME BACK.
You're home!


HEH YUP. I-I'M HOME..
OOOH! DID YOU BUY SOME-THING?
WHAT?! THIS?! UM...
てのひら

TINA... THERE'S A FURRY THING IN YOUR CLEAVAGE!
Q-QUIT LYING! I'D HAVE NOTICED SOMETHING LIKE THAT... HEH...
SHUT UP! WE BOTH SAW IT!
KYAAA!! IT'S A FERRET! IT'S SO CUTE!
"It's just a baby ferret."
I HAVE A FRIEND AT THE PET SHOP, AND HE LET ME HAVE HER CHEAP
ISN'T IT, THOUGH?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP IT?
WELL I WAS GOING TO ASK LANDLADY-SAN ABOUT THAT~~
すり~♡
ひよこ

I can keep her right?
LOOK! ISN'T SHE SWEET? IT'S SO PLAYFUL!
HEE HEE HEE! HOW PRECIOUS!
BE BE BE
ANIMALS MAKE GIRLS ACT WEIRD!
UMMM.. WHAT ABOUT MIYABI-SAN?
SHE W-WON'T MIND!
HOW COULD SHE NOT SEE IT'S THE CUTEST THING EVER?
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!

IS ALL THIS RUCKUS JUST FOR THIS FILTHY VERMIN?
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT KEEPING IT.
Animals breed disease!
IT HAS TO GO!
IT STINKS ALREADY.
AAAAUHH! THAT TICKLES, YOU PEST!!
RETURN THE BEAST THIS INSTANT!!
MIYABI-SAN...ISN'T THERE SOME WAY SHE CAN KEEP HER PET?!

UH...
IF WE START HAVING PETS, IT'S ONLY GOING TO CREATE MORE WORK FOR MINAZUKI-SAN!
What a sweetheart!
SUCH A CUTIE WON'T BE ANY TROUBLE.
FINE! DO WHAT YOU WANT! YOU JUST CAN'T HAVE IT IN THE MAIN HOUSE!

レロレロ
OH! HOW SWEET! SHE'S DRINKING!
AOI-CHAN SURE WOULD MAKE A GREAT MOTHER...
You're such a good girl.
YES!
IT'S A HEALTHY LITTLE THING...

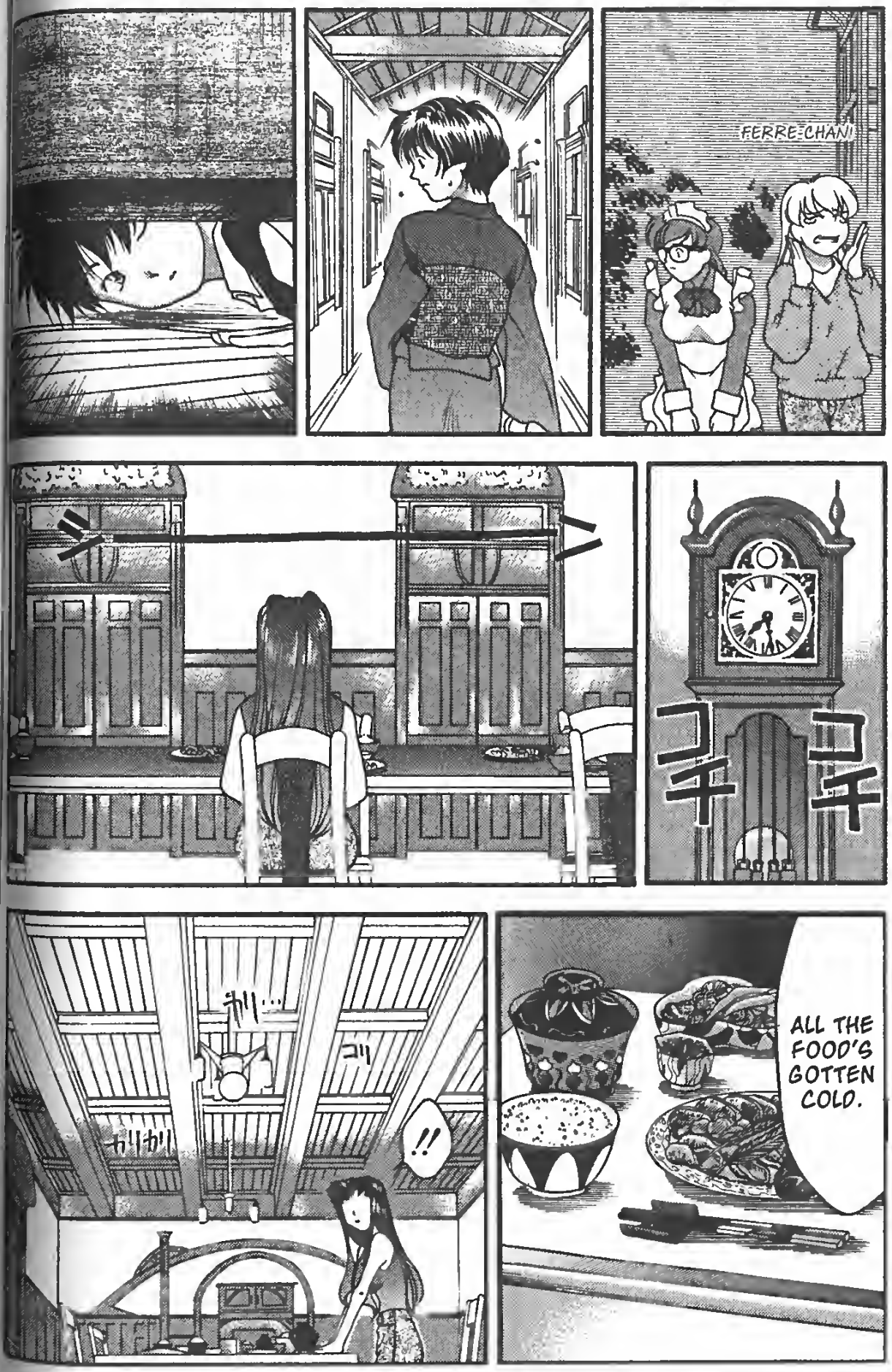
N-NO, IT'S NOTHING.
IS SOMETHING WRONG, KAORU-SAMA?!
THAT'S STRANGE...
I WAS POSITIVE I LEFT IT HERE.
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, MIYABI-SAN?
OH, YEAH IT'S NO BIG DEAL...
I JUST CAN'T FIND MY FOUNTAIN PEN.
AAAAHHH!!
WHAT?!

HYAAAA!!
WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE ABOUT?
HEY!! GIVE THAT BACK!
WHAT?!
WHAT?!
ドタドタ
チョロ〜
ピュー
BOX!
BOX!
BOTCHA !!
OKAY!
STOP THAT THING, TINA-SAN!!
HYYYAAAA!!
AH!!

AAAH!!
OH N-NO.. TEE HEE HEE!
もぞ
もぞ
もぞ
FREEZE, FERRET!!
EEEEEK!!
KYAAAAHH!!
NOT ANOTHER YAG!
IT'S WIZZING ON THE RUG!

AS MANAGER OF THE ESTATE, I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THE MANSION OF THE RENOWNED SAKURAGA FAMILY.
THAT'S IT! I'VE HAD ENOUGH! TOMORROW THAT THING GOES BACK WHERE IT CAME FROM!!
WOW. MIYABI-SAN'S REALLY LOST IT.
ARE WE CLEAR?!!
IF YOU HAVING A PET MEANS I FAIL AT MY DUTY, THEN YOU WON'T HAVE A PET!
OKAY, EVERY-ONE! TIME FOR DINNER!
sigh
I DON'T THINK SHE'S GOING TO BUDGE ON THIS. THE FERRET'S GOING BACK.
しょぼ

AAAAHHH!!
WHOOPS! I ALMOST FORGOT, I HAVE TO FEED THE FERRET...
I...
If anything happened to her, I—
EEEHHH!!?
K-KAORUUUU! THE FERRET BROKE LOOSE!!
ぱたぱた
You look over there!!
OKAY!!
DON'T PANIC! FAN OUT AND START SEARCHING!
THE STUPID RODENT'S CAUSING PROBLEMS EVEN TO THE VERY END


FERRE-CHAN!
コチ コチ
カリ…
コリ
カリカリ
!!
ALL THE FOOD'S GOTTEN COLD.

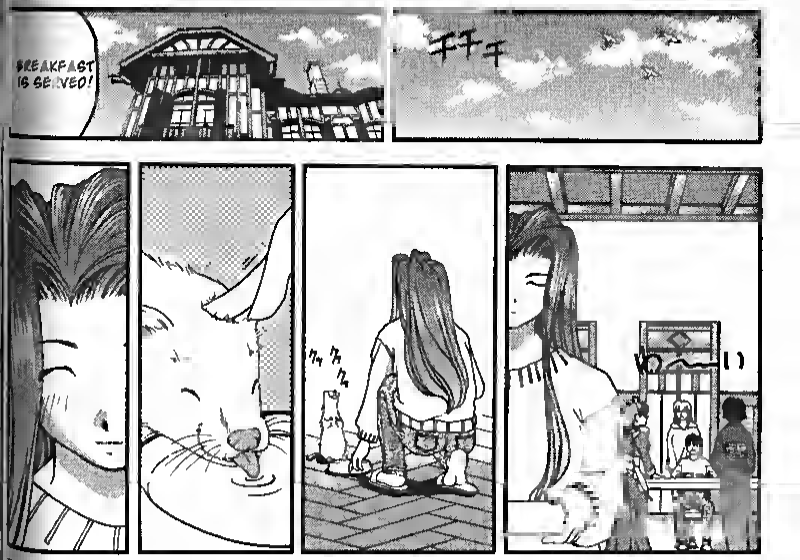
WHERE'S THAT NOISE COMING FROM?
IS IT COMING FROM BACK HERE ...?!
WHAT COULD IT BE?
!!
KAORU-DONO!! I FOUND IT!!
AOI-SAMA!!
WHAT? WHERE?!
IS SHE OKAY?!
I FOUND IT, BUT...
OH NO!! SHE'S SQUISHED!
WH-WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?

CAN YOU GET YOUR HAND AROUND HER?
I'LL TRY.
GRU...
I-I CAN'T! I'LL HURT HER MORE!
AHH... SHE'S STOPPED MOVING!
WE HAVE TO HELP HER, OR SHE'S GOING TO DIE...!
KUH...
HOLD ON, SWEETIE! WE'LL GET YOU OUT SOON.

KAORU, CAN'T YOU MOVE IT?!
ALL RIGHT !!
IT'S NO USE IT'S TOO HEAVY...
Uwaaaaann! She's gonna die!!
MIYABI-SAN?!
KAORU-OONO GET OUT OF THE WAY!
RRRR!

BOSS?
MIYABI-SAN!
MIYABI-SAN?!
.....
THINGS CAN BE REPLACED...
...BUT LIVING CREATURES ...

COME ON, JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE!!
キュ
キュイ
バキーン!!
GUHA
ハァ
!!
チョロ
OW...



End of Chapter 26: Aigan—Fondness

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN COURTESY OF *HUMANIST*

A NEW PET ARRIVES ON THE SCENE. I WONDER HOW MIYABI WILL REACT?

藍より青し

第二十七話　挿頭草―かざしぐさ―

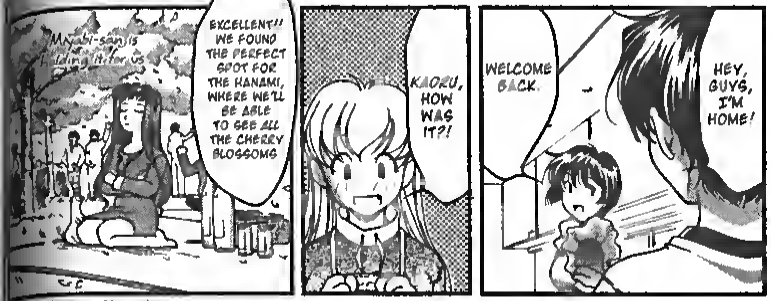
CHAPTER 27 KAZASHIGUSA HOLLYHOCK

TAE-CHIIIIN! WHERE'S THE BLACK PEPPER?!
YIKES! OKAY!
TURN OFF THE HEAT!!
TOP RIGHT SHELF, WHERE IT'S ALWAYS BEEN.
WHOAAA! THAT LOOKS SO GOOD !!
I'M DONE!

モグモグ
Which one? Which one?
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A TASTE?
THIS IS DELICIOUS!!
THE FLAVOR BEGINS AS SOMETHING SO SIMPLE, AND THEN EXPLODES...
THIS TAKES SNACK FOOD TO A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I'VE FINISHED COOKING, AS WELL... BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN FOLLOW THAT!

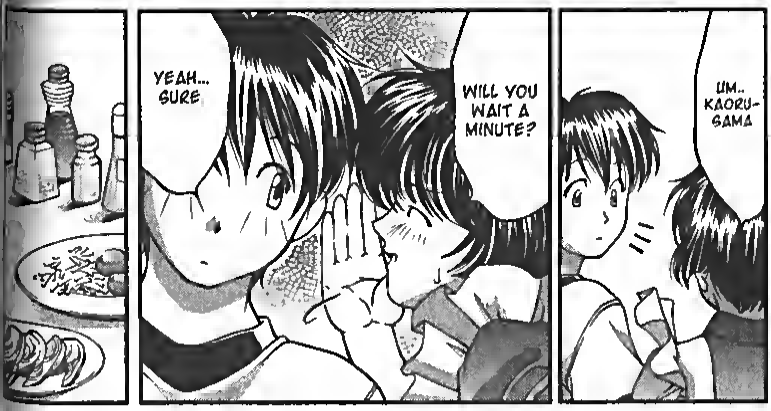
OH, MAN... MY MOUTH IS WATERING LOOKING AT THOSE GYOZA.
Gimme a bite!
THEY WERE PRETTY TRICKY TO MAKE.
THE STRAWBERRY JAM CURRY WAS KIND OF GOOEY.
Oh! Are you alright?!
Who doesn't like strawberries?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, JUST SAY SO! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO DRAMATIC ABOUT IT!
OKAY, MY TURN AT THE PLATE!
どよーん

ホレ
TRY IT. YOU'LL THANK ME.
IT'S A CULINARY DELICACY!
CAN HUMANS EAT THIS?!
ACCEPT YOUR FATE! EAT MY FOOD!!
NOOOO! I LIKE MY STOMACH JUST THE WAY IT IS!!
IT...IT'S GOOD...!
WHADDAYA THINK?!
Does it hurt?
IT IS GOOD, ISN'T IT?
gah
I win!
ha ha!
How?!
No feeling?


HEY, GUYS, I'M HOME!
WELCOME BACK.
KAORU, HOW WAS IT?!
EXCELLENT!! WE FOUND THE PERFECT SPOT FOR THE HANAMI, WHERE WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE ALL THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS
Miyabi-san is taking it for us

Hanami: Cherry blossom viewing

SWEET!!
LET'S GATHER UP THE FOOD AND GO!
HEH. I'M SORRY. I'M NOT QUITE READY YET, BUT PLEASE GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME.
NO WORRIES!
WE'LL MEET YOU THERE.



HEY, TINA!! WAIT UP!
WELL, WE'LL SEE YOU LATER THEN.
REALLY?!
I don't want her getting lost on the way.
I'M GONNA HANG BACK AND GO WITH AOI-CHAN.
カチャ
NO BRAND
CUSTOM

THANK YOU FOR WAITING, KAORU-SAMA.

YEAH, IT'S GORGEOUS!!
And so are you.
DO YOU REALLY LIKE IT ?!
THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL KIMONO
THANK GOODNESS
HUSH?!
WHA-?!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, KAORU-SAMA—

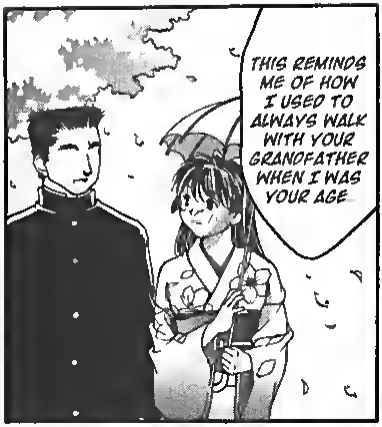
THIS KIMONO IS ACTUALLY QUITE OLD. IT'S A HAND-ME-DOWN FROM MY GRAND-MOTHER
I GUESS SHE WAS AROUND A LOT, HUH? IS SHE THE ONE THAT RAISED YOU?
PRETTY MUCH. MY MOTHER AND FATHER WERE ALWAYS SO CAUGHT UP IN THEIR WORK...
SHE WAS MY BEST FRIEND UP UNTIL FIVE YEARS AGO, WHEN SHE PASSED AWAY.
I'M SORRY...
AAAH!!

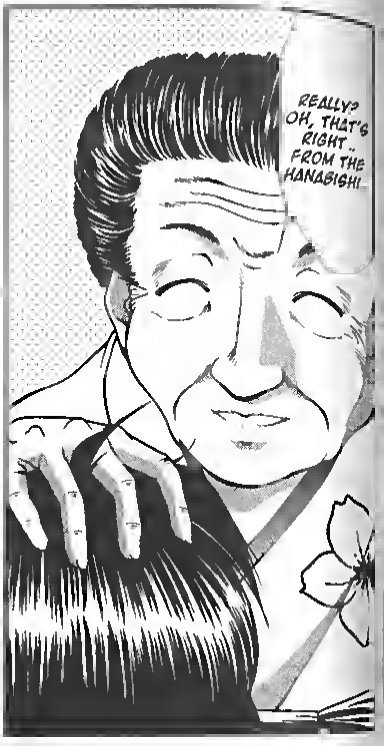
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE SO PRETTY!!
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ALWAYS MAKE ME THINK OF GRANDMA. SHE AND I USED TO GO AND SEE THEM EVERY YEAR.
NO BRAND
CUSTOM
.....

I USED TO WHINE TO HER ALL THE TIME ABOUT HOW MUCH I LIKED IT. I BEGGED HER TO GIVE IT TO ME.
Grandma, why can't I wear your kimono?!
THIS IS THE KIMONO SHE'D WEAR ON OUR TRIPS.
I DON'T KNOW SHOULDN'T A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU WANT WESTERN CLOTHES MORE THAN THIS OLD THING? MAYBE YOU DO BELONG IN YOUR FAMILY'S DRY GOODS STORE
WHENEVER MY PLEAS GOT OUT OF HAND, MY GRANDMOTHER TOLD ME--

IF YOU'RE GOING TO WEAR A KIMONO, YOU MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER...
...OUR DRESSES ARE DYED WITH THE THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS OF THE PEOPLE WHO WEAR THEM
TO WEAR A KIMONO...
...IS TO WEAR THE FEELINGS THAT HAVE BEEN BESTOWED UPON ITS FABRIC
!?
THE KIMONO HAS FEELINGS ?!
MAYBE THAT'S TOO ABSTRACT FOR A MIND SO YOUNG.

AOI...
WHEN YOU GROW UP, THIS DRESS WILL BECOME YOURS.
REALLY?
AND WHEN YOU WEAR IT I WANT YOU TO WALK DOWN A ROAD LINED WITH SAKURA TREES ARM-IN-ARM WITH THE MAN WHO WILL BE YOUR LIFE'S COMPANION
HMM ?!
I ALREADY KNOW WHO THAT IS!!
AOI IS GOING TO BE WITH KAORU-SAMA FROM THE HANABISHI!!!


THIS REMINDS ME OF HOW I USED TO ALWAYS WALK WITH YOUR GRANDFATHER WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE.


REALLY? OH, THAT'S RIGHT... FROM THE HANABISHI.

THIS WAS YOUR GRAND-FATHER'S FAVORITE KIMONO FOR ME TO WEAR.

IF THE LOVE WOVEN INTO THIS KIMONO IS HANDED DOWN TO YOU...
THEN I'M SURE THAT HANABISHI BOY WILL...

...ADORE THIS OUTFIT JUST AS MUCH AS MY HUSBAND DID

IT ALL MAKES SENSE TO ME NOW.
THIS KIMONO...
...WAS DYED WITH HER EVERY EXPRESSION OF LOVE

KAORU-SAMA...
HMM, THAT'S A GOOD STORY.
WHEN I WEAR THIS KIMONO...
...I FEEL LIKE I LOVE YOU EVEN MORE LIKE I'VE LOVED YOU FOREVER.

TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT YOU LIKE THIS KIMONO, AS WELL, MUST BE THE KEY THAT UNLOCKED ITS HEART.
NO BRAND
CUSTOM
どんちゃん どんちゃん

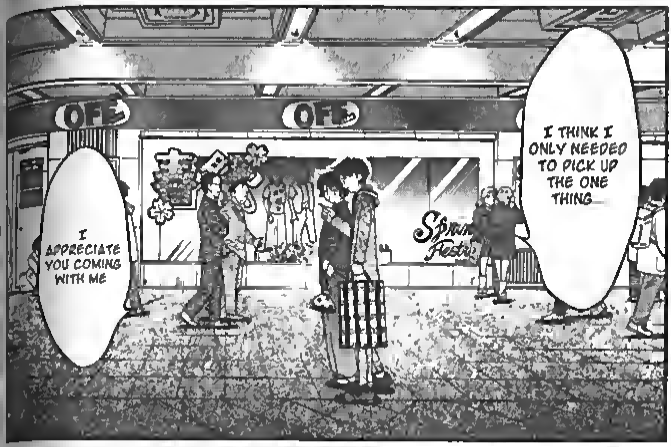
COME AND SERVE YOUR MASTER!!
KAORUUU! MY LOVE SLAVE!
OH, GREAT TINA'S ALREADY BLITZED!
YOU BET, KAORU-SAMA!!
ARE YOU COMING, AOI-CHAN?

nd of Chapter 27: Kazashigusa—Cherry Blossoms

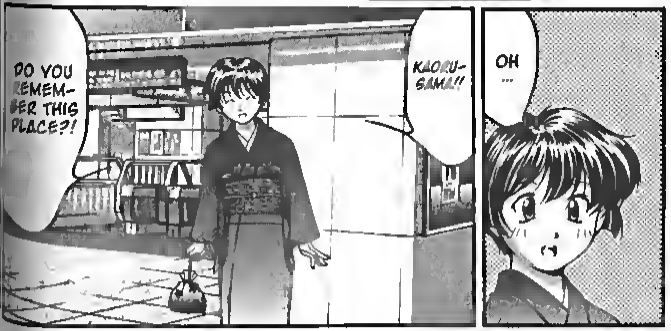
THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
HUMANIST

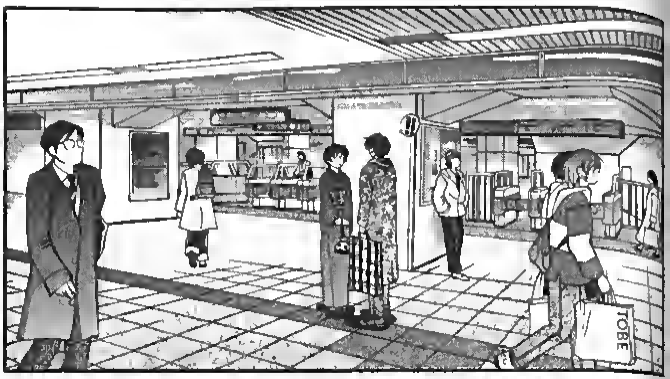
IT'S CHERRY BLOSSOM
VIEWING TIME. WHAT
TO WEAR?

藍より青し
AI YORI AOSHI
第二十八話　春秋―しゅんじゅう―
CHAPTER 28 SHUNJUU SPRING AND AUTUMN


OFF
OFF
I APPRECIATE YOU COMING WITH ME
I THINK I ONLY NEEDED TO PICK UP THE ONE THING...

The ferret needs food. And a new toy.
See if they have a GameBoy version of Dancing Furby!!
I need a new bunny towel.
I FEEL BAD YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING SHOPPING, AND THE WHOLE HOUSE GIVES YOU A LIST.


DO YOU REMEMBER THIS PLACE?!
KAORU-SAMA!!
OH...


TOBE

CAN YOU BELIEVE...
A WHOLE YEAR HAS ALREADY GONE BY?

I DO! THIS IS WHERE WE MET!
Yes...

THAT WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY OUT OF CHARACTER FOR ME

I REMEMBER I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY LUCK THAT SUCH A HANDSOME MAN WOULD HELP ME FIX MY HANKO

REALLY...? IT'S BEEN THAT LONG

Why won't my ticket go through...?
THERE WAS JUST SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT MADE ME WANT TO HELP YOU.
OUT LIKE A LIGHT.
NUH-UH! REALLY?!
ACTUALLY, YOU FELL ASLEEP AND WE ENDED UP RIDING IN CIRCLES
YES. BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT NOW, IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS REALLY SHORT.
MAN, IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE NIGHT IS FLOODING BACK NOW! LIKE OUR TRAIN RIDE...
GOTCHA!
JUST KIDDING!!
EEEHH!?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU MIGHT'VE EVEN BEEN DROOLING A LITTLE..

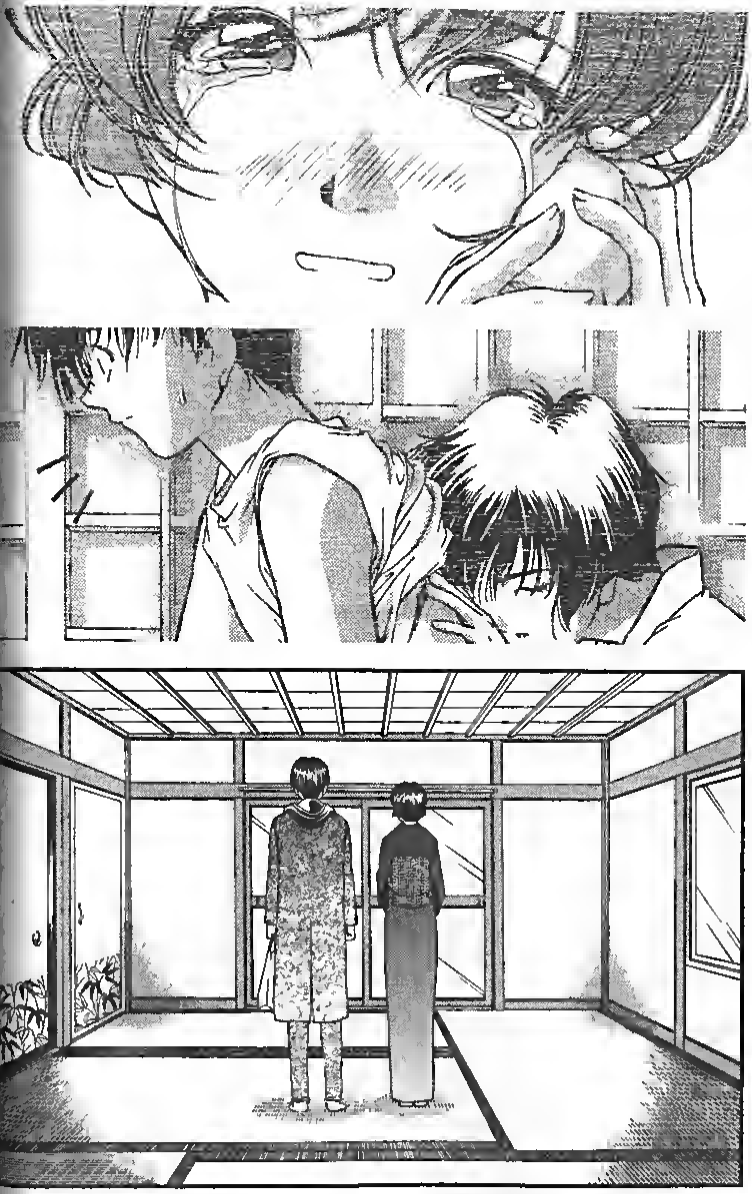
You meanie! That's terrible!
Ha Ha Ha
YOU'D THINK ON A SUNDAY IT WOULD BE A LITTLE LESS CROWDED..
...I'M SORRY.
!!

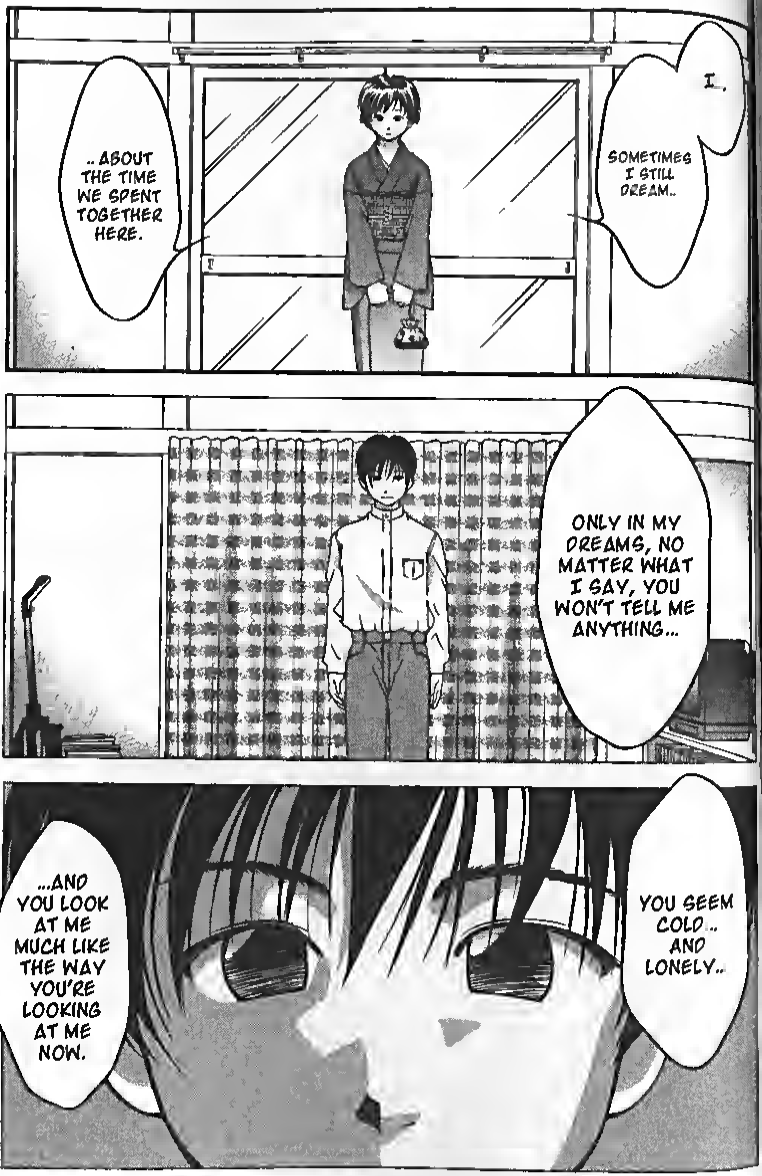
Are you okay?!
HUH?!
YES...I'M PERFECTLY FINE...
HEY... AOI-CHAN
YOU KNOW WHAT WE SHOULD GO SEE 9!
WHAT'S THAT?

!!
THE APARTMENT I USED TO LIVE IN

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. IT HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
Then again, it's only been a year.
I THINK IT'S STILL VACANT, ACTUALLY.
Please read before using electricity
Application for Use of Electricity
Electric Company
WEIRD..
HEY- IT'S UNLOCKED!
GEEZ. THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
I KNOW. I'M GETTING A LITTLE EMOTIONAL.

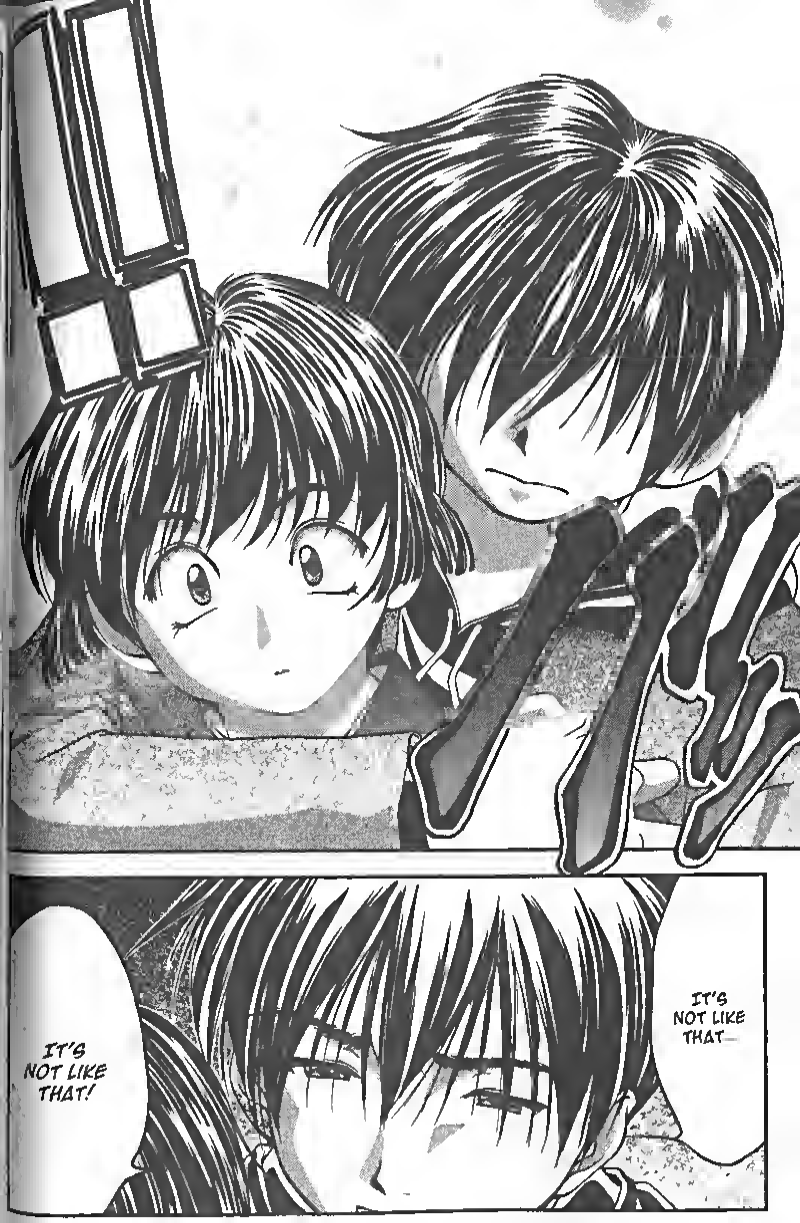
I'LL SAY...
A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED IN THIS ROOM...




I..
SOMETIMES I STILL DREAM..
..ABOUT THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER HERE.
ONLY IN MY DREAMS, NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, YOU WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING...
YOU SEEM COLD.. AND LONELY..
...AND YOU LOOK AT ME MUCH LIKE THE WAY YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME NOW.

...AND TRY TO GET YOU TALKING WITH FUN STORIES.
You won't believe what happened...
Kaoru-sama, it's your favorite, fried fish!
I ALWAYS TRY TO CHEER YOU UP, MAKE US SOME FOOD...
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, YOUR MOOD NEVER CHANGES...
WHEN I REACH THE POINT WHERE I THINK THE TEARS WON'T EVER STOP, I WAKE UP...
I FEEL TRAPPED. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

...AND DISCOVER I AM CRYING IN REAL LIFE
AOI-CHAN.
AN INCREDIBLY... ANXIOUS FEELING THEN SPREADS OVER ME...
I'M SORRY, KAORU-SAMA
I'M SURE I...JUST WORRY TOO MUCH, AND THAT'S WHY I HAVE THESE DREAMS..


IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT—

KAORU-SAMA?
KAORU-SAMA...!
KAORU-SAMA...

AFTER I WAS TAKEN FROM MY MOTHER AND EXILED WITH THE HANABISHI
WHEN I LOOK BACK AT MY CHILDHOOD... I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE GOOD MEMORY..
...BECAUSE I DON'T EVER WANT TO BECOME ONE OF THEM.
WHEN I CONSIDER THAT HANABISHI BLOOD FLOWS IN MY VEINS, IT ENRAGES ME..
...AS THE YEARS PASSED AND MY MOTHER DIED...
I SOCKED AWAY SOME MONEY, AND WHEN IT WAS ENOUGH, I LEFT THEM AND NEVER LOOKED BACK
.....

I WORKED A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT JOBS TO PAY FOR IT.
THIS WAS MY FIRST APARTMENT ON MY OWN.
I WANTED TO WASH THE WORD "FAMILY" OUT OF MY MIND.
I NEVER... I NEVER WANTED TO RELY ON ANYBODY EVER AGAIN
...CURSED THE DAY I WAS BORN
UNTIL NOW, I ALWAYS...

...WHEN SOMETHING CAME ALONG AND MADE ME GLAD I WAS BORN A HANABISHI.
IMAGINE MY SURPRISE...
AOI-CHAN...
MEETING YOU, GETTING ENGAGED TO YOU ...
...THAT'S THE ONLY DECENT THING MY STINKIN' FAMILY EVER DID FOR ME THAT WAS ANY GOOD.

ポロ
KAORU-SAMA...
ポロ
I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER ...
...TO CALL YOU MY FIANCÉE.

End of Chapter 28: Shunjuu—Spring and Autumn

藍より青し

AI YORI AOSHI

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN
COURTESY OF
H.U.M.A.N.I.S.T

WHEN THIS MANGA PROJECT STARTED, IT WAS HOSHI MANGA WHO GOT THE BALL ROLLING WITH THEIR ORIGINAL SCANLATION OF SO YORI ASHI, BUILDING THEIR'S THE PERFECT EDITION. WHILE THESE SCANS CAN'T BE COMPARED WITH THOSE (I DON'T WANT TO KEEP MY TELEPHONE BOOKS APART JUST TO PROVIDE A CLEAN SCAN JOB) I HOPE THESE HAVE BEEN SATISFYING ENOUGH FOR ALL YOU TRUE AYA FANS. -JUDY-

IT'S BEEN A YEAR,
REMEMBERING WHAT
BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER
ALL OVER AGAIN...

藍より青し

第二十九話　胸懐―きょうかい―

CHAPTER 29 KYOUKAI THE HEART

I LOVE YOU..
..MORE THAN ANYTHING IN LIFE.
I'M HAPPY...
I'M SO HAPPY.
HP HP

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME... YOU TOLD ME YOU LOVED ME!

AOI-CHAN..
I'M SORRY... FOR ALL THE TIMES I WORRIED OVER NOTHING.
I CONVINCED MY MOTHER TO LET ME STAY WITH YOU...
...BUT I NEVER KNEW HOW YOU REALLY FELT ABOUT ME
SO MANY TIMES, I'VE WANTED TO ASK YOU...
...BUT I... I WAS TOO AFRAID OF WHAT YOU MIGHT SAY.
GOSH. I'M SORRY..
...I JUST FELT SO AWKWARD. IT'S HARD FOR ME--
PLEASE DON'T APOLOGIZE
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, KAORU-SAMA.

IT'S MY OWN FAULT...
I GET OBSESSED OVER LITTLE THINGS AND FRET ABOUT THEM.
EVEN AFTER WE MET AS CHILDREN.
...I WOULD ALWAYS THINK ABOUT YOU AND GET FRIGHTENED AND NERVOUS.
I'D WONDER WHAT YOU WERE DOING. WHAT KIND OF LIFE YOU WERE LEADING.
I WOULD WONDER.
...WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU WERE BECOMING.
THROUGHOUT MY CHILDHOOD, YOU WERE ALWAYS AT THE FRONT OF MY MIND.

ONE DAY THEY TOLD ME THAT THE DEAL WITH THE HANABISHI HAD BEEN BROKEN...
BUT...WHY?! WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE MARRIED!
I DON'T KNOW THE REASONS. BUT THE HANABISHI TOLD US THAT THEY COULD NO LONGER HONOR THEIR SIDE OF THE ARRANGEMENT
THEY SAID THAT?!
WHAT ABOUT KAORU-SAMA...?
IT'S NOT HIM, IS IT? DOES KAORU WANT THIS?!
AOI-SAMA!?

I KNOW YOU PROBABLY FEEL HURT, BUT...
THE ENGAGEMENT IS OFF
.....
IF YOU DON'T COOPERATE, YOU'LL ONLY BRING MORE DISTRESS TO YOUR FAMILY.
...YOU NEED TO MOVE FORWARD THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW OTHER APPLICANTS TO BE YOUR BETROTHED.

AOI-SAMA !!
ﾅｲ...
NO
I SAID, NO!! I WAS ABLE TO COME THIS FAR, TO WORK THIS HARD, BECAUSE I WAS REALLY IN LOVE WITH KAORU-SAMA!
THERE IS NO ONE ELSE FOR ME! NO ONE!!! IT'S KAORU OR IT'S NOTHING!!

WAAAAH!!
I WORRIED MYSELF SICK ON THE WAY.
THE ONLY QUESTION UNANSWERED WAS THE KIND OF PERSON YOU HAD BECOME.
I CRIED UNTIL THERE WERE NO MORE TEARS LEFT.
I CRIED FOR DAYS AFTER THAT.
...UNTIL I DISCOVERED THAT YOU HAD COME HERE AFTER LEAVING THE HANABISHI.
I DESPERATELY SEARCHED FOR YOU, FOR ANY INFORMATION...

NO..
YOU WERE EXACTLY THE WAY...

I CAN'T DESCRIBE THE RELIEF I FELT WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT THE NICE BOY WHO HAD HELPED ME WAS ACTUALLY THE ONE I WAS LOOKING FOR

KAORU-SAMA, YOU WERE...
...MORE WONDERFUL THAN I HAD FANTASIZED YOU BEING.

I COULDN'T BE MORE THRILLED TO LOVE YOU, AOI-CHAN.
KAORU-SAMA. I COULDN'T BE MORE THRILLED THAN TO HAVE THE MAN YOU BECAME AS MY FIANCÉ
ぽっ

I LOVE YOU!!
I LOVE YOU KAORU-SAMA!!!

KAORU-SAMA..
AOI-CHAN..

THIS IS A GREAT PLACE FOR A YOUNG COUPLE.
YOU GET PLENTY OF SUNLIGHT, AND IT'S QUIET.
IT'S A CORNER APARTMENT TOO. CAN'T BEAT THAT!
Good grief!
NOT AT THIS PRICE
BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE A LOFT

What do you think?
DON'T LOOK IN THE CLOSET DON'T LOOK IN THE CLOSET
ISN'T IT A BIT SMALL FOR TWO PEOPLE?!
IT'S NOT SMALL, IT'S COZY
HMMMM, I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE...
DON'T OPEN IT DON'T OPEN IT
THINK ABOUT IT WE'LL NEVER HAVE TO BE MORE THAN A FEW FEET APART

WELL, WE HAVE ONE MORE TO LOOK AT BEFORE YOU NEED TO DECIDE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE WE LIVE, SWEETUMS, AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER.
NN?!
GAME BOY COLOR
Dancing Furby

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バタン
?!
What's this doing here ?
ふう～
WE'RE SAVED...
YEAH
WE SHOULD PROBABLY GO, IN CASE THEY COME BACK

I WONDER IF THAT COUPLE WILL TAKE THAT APARTMENT?
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED..

IN A WAY...
...I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS.
WHAT?

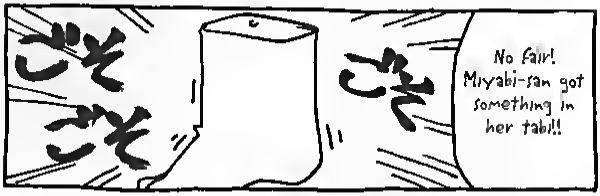
MIYABI-SAN...
TAEKO-SAN...
TINA-SAN...
IT'S FUN HAVING SUCH A BIG FAMILY TO LIVE WITH, BUT...
I DON'T KNOW--

SOMETIMES I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE...
...HAD WE STAYED IN YOUR APART-MENT, WOULD WE BE EVEN CLOSER NOW?
AOI-CHAN?
YES?!
I SUPPOSE...

KAORU-SAMA
KA

End of Chapter 29: Kyoukai—The Heart

Ai-Ao Theatre, part 6: Present



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GLOSSARY

藍より青し

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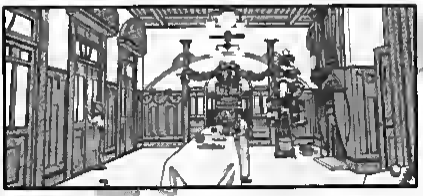
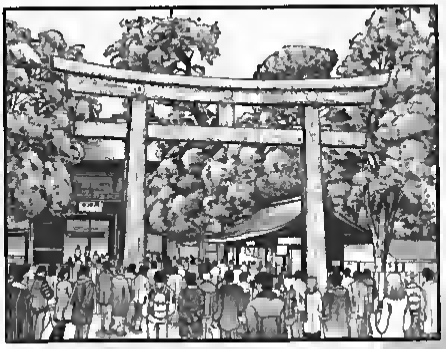
Christmas in Japan



In Japan, where Christians make up less than .5% of the population, the Christmas holiday is completely secular, and new, uniquely Japanese traditions have formed around it. Christmas Cake, which Kaoru takes a job selling and Aoi and Miyabi are seen eating, is perhaps the most common tradition. The confection is basically glorified strawberry shortcake, being composed of shortcake topped with whip cream strawberries. Another tradition is the romantic significance of Christmas Eve. Rather than being a time for family or community, Christmas Eve is a time to show your special someone how you really feel.

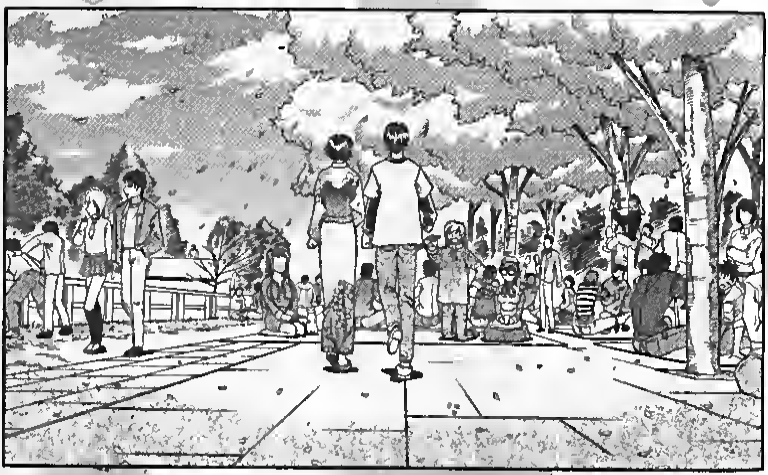
New Year's



New Year's (or *shougatsu*) is one of the most important events of the year in Japan. It's celebrated by a three-day holiday, ushered in by ringing temples bells at midnight on New Year's Eve. For many Japanese, no New Year's is complete without a customary first temple visit, called *Hatsumoude*. Soba noodles are the New Year's Eve food of choice, while decorative box meals called osechi ryori and ozoni (a soup with mochi) are traditional eats for the three-day holiday. Each item in a osechi set is meant to symbolize a wish for the new year, such as *ebi* (shrimp) for long life or *kobu-maki* (seaweed roll) for happiness.

Valentine's Day

As with Christmas, the Japanese have embraced the Valentine's Day holiday and made it their own. In fact, the idea of a holiday based on buying gifts for the opposite sex was so popular that they split it into *two* holidays. On February 14th, Valentine's Day, girls give "gift chocolate" to boys. It can be a romantic, or just a friendly gesture to classmates and coworkers. One month later on March 14th is White Day, when boys return the gesture by giving candies to the girls. As reciprocation is very important in Japanese society, one should always give back a gift of equal or slightly greater value.



Hanami

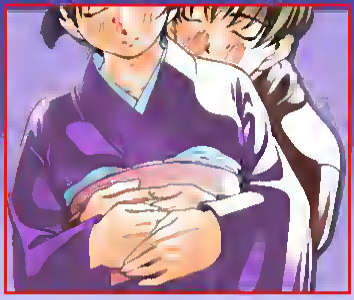
Hanami is the ritual of viewing cherry blossoms. Going with friends or family to view the first *sakura* blooms of spring is an extremely popular pastime. Visitors to parks and shrines vie for the perfect spot from which to view the flowers and share picnics, sake and song.

NOTE: The Japanese word for cherry blossoms is sakura, and uses the same kanji character as is in the Sakuraba's name. That's why here family's department stores have a cherry blossom logo.

THIS TOKYOPOP SCAN COURTESY OF *HUMANIST*

[illegible]

AUTHOR'S NOTE: WELL, SCANNING THESE CHAPTERS AND PUTTING THEM OUT FOR YOU HAS BEEN KIND OF FUN, AND HAS CERTAINLY BEEN AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE FOR ME. NOW THAT THIS VOLUME IS CONCLUDED, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO CATCH MY BREATH. I THINK. WHETHER I'LL SCAN ANY MORE AYA VOLUMES FOR YOU, I'LL LET MY MOOD, AND THE FUTURE, DECIDE. IN THE MEANTIME, ENJOY THIS TOUCHING AND HEART-FELT FINAL CHAPTER.



THE LOVE THEY'VE FELT HAS FINALLY BEEN SPOKEN. FROM NOW ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP WILL ONLY GROW STRONGER?

Merry Christmas and have joyous holiday season!

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– S.A. Bennett, *Comic Buyers Guide*

True Blue Love

Holidays like Christmas and Valentine's are that much more special when you're with someone you love. Lovebirds Kaoru and Aoi are discovering this for themselves as each holiday is a milestone in their blossoming relationship. With their engagement a secret, it's not always easy to find a romantic moment alone-especially with Aoi's watchful guardian and Kaoru's sexy roommates always nearby. But true blue love always finds a way!

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3

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